

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Jr. High
165 S. 700 E. Springville
December 16, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda as written
Passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes as transcribed
Passed unanimously

Bear Proclamation and Rule R657-33

MOTION: To leave permit numbers on the San Juan unit the same as last year (23 spring permits and 10 fall permits)
Passed 6 to 1

MOTION: To approve the bear proclamation and rule with the exception of the increase in permit numbers. The Division would decide how many permits on each unit with the except of the San Juan unit which would remain at 23 spring permits and 10 fall permits as previously voted on.

Failed 5 to 2

MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations as presented including the increase in permit numbers
Passed unanimously

Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan

MOTION: To accept the statewide management plan as presented
Passed unanimously

Falconry Rule R657-20

MOTION: To approve the recommendations as proposed
Passed unanimously

Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

MOTION: To approve the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Wildlife Convention Permits Rule R657-55

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Habitat Management Plans – CRO ONLY

MOTION: To accept the habitat management plans as presented
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Jr. High
165 S. 700 E. Springville
December 16, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

John Bair, Sportsmen
Calvin Crandall, Agriculture
Richard Hansen, At Large
Doug Jones, Forest Service
Ed Kent, Chair
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Vice Chair
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive

Members Absent

Micki Bailey, BLM
Byron Gunderson, At Large
George Holmes, Agriculture
Jay Price, Elected
Allan Stevens, At Large

Others Present

Rick Woodard, Wildlife Board Member

1) **Approval of the Agenda (Action)**

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the agenda as written

Seconded by Gary Nielson

Motion passed unanimously

2) **Approval of the November 13, 2008 minutes (Action)**

VOTING

Motion was made by Fred Oswald to accept the minutes as transcribed

Seconded by John Bair

Motion passed unanimously

3) **Regional Update (Information)**

- **John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor**

Wildlife

- Biologists are conducting their post-season deer classification this month to determine the buck:doe ratios and fawn production on each herd unit. The recent snowfall should concentrate deer on their winter range and improve their ability to get good counts.
- We're trapping turkeys from areas where the populations are doing well and moving them to approved transplant areas in the region that have suitable habitat but lack birds.

Aquatics

- Ice beginning to form at Strawberry and Scofield reservoirs. Check fishing forecast on the Division's website for ice conditions.
- The URMCC and the Division began work last month on the Diamond Fork River Restoration Project. Routing high flows through the pipeline has done wonders to reverse years of damage to the river; however, bank stabilization is still needed in some areas.

Habitat

The Division is working the SITLA on a huge land exchange that would give them property near the Lee Kay Center (frontage along the new Mountain View Highway) for trust land parcels that lie within or adjacent to existing wildlife management areas. The exchange will take some time to put together, but will be a big benefit to future management of our lands for wildlife.

- Section personnel completed all the habitat restoration projects that involved artificial seeding this fall, with the exception of a couple of projects carried out on private lands. Some pinyon-juniper lop and scatter projects are planned for this spring.

Conservation Outreach

- With the recent changes in the Dedicated Hunter program, we anticipate a significant increase in the demand for service projects in the coming year. I've asked each manager to get with their staff to identify projects that will benefit wildlife and to let them know that Division employees will be more involved in supervising projects than they have in the past.

Law Enforcement

- Officers are busy following up on cases that they've been working on since the hunts.
- We're handling fewer illegal bull cases on spike units than during the first few years of the spike hunt. That's a good sign as we move to a statewide spike elk hunt on limited entry units.

4) Deer Feeding Policy (Informational)

- **Justin Dolling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Fred Oswald – There is a lot of data that needs to be gathered. Who will be doing that?

Justin Dolling – There will be some additional work load there. A lot of the data is collected at deer check stations. Both biologists and law enforcement will be involved in monitoring and assessing road kill deer. The temperature information can be gathered from the internet.

Fred Oswald – If the Division decides not to feed but private groups still want to what do you do in that situation?

Justin Dolling – We would strongly discourage them from feeding based on the items we have just reviewed. There is nothing in our policy that would prohibit them from feeding but we would recommend they use the specialized pellet. Keep in mind that a study in northern Utah found that it didn't really improve animal survival, at least during the winters that they fed.

Fred Oswald – People will believe what they want to believe. I know of a CWMU that spent their own money to feed and at the end of last winter they were convinced that they basically saved the herd. They were angry with the biologists and the Division because they didn't take action.

Justin Dolling – Feeding wildlife tends to be a very emotional issue. When you put product out and see the animals respond I think it gives you a good feeling. It is difficult to remain objective and stand back and evaluate whether what you are doing is making a difference in the long run.

Richard Hansen – How do you know if it makes a difference? If you know it doesn't make a difference why are we doing it?

Justin Dolling – In certain winters it can make a difference but they have to be extreme winters. It can be important in certain situations.

Richard Hansen – Does early intervention help more? How do you know the right time to do it?

Justin Dolling – We proposed here to look at the condition of the animals throughout the winter.

Richard Hansen – I hope it works and I am glad you are making an effort to address this issue.

Comments from the Public

Dan Betts – A suggestion, UDOT has a lot of deer removal contracts. Could we rewrite that contract to include data collection? They pick them up all year and that data would be helpful.

Justin Dolling – We could definitely talk with UDOT and see if they have interest in doing that.

5) Bear Study (Informational)

- **Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Fred Oswald – Is the DNA analysis expensive?

Kevin Bunnell – It is about \$30 per bear sample. First they weed out what is bear and what is not. It is not prohibitive at this point. It is costing a couple thousand dollars a year. When you consider when you are counting elk that is a couple hours in the helicopter it's fairly cheap actually.

Fred Oswald – With all the budget cuts will this be possible?

Kevin – Yes. We will be applying for some grants and asking some of the sportsman's groups to apply some of the money they have raised selling bear conservation permits back into this project. We certainly won't be doing it alone.

Duane Smith – That is the best data I have seen on bears for a long time. I am curious what population estimator you are using?

Kevin Bunnell – There are five or six we run each year with the mark recapture program.

6) Bear Proclamation and Rule R657-33 (Action)

- **Justin Dolling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Fred Oswald – I applaud the management plan. What about things you can't manage such as depredation kills? How does that factor into the management plan? Sometimes more bears are killed than you expected to get killed and it obviously reduces the bear population but it doesn't seem to be factored into the management plan.

Justin Dolling – Depredation kills are factored in. More bears were killed in 2007 for depredation but the year before we had good production so it somewhat evened out. We do track age and percent of females for depredation kills as well and we do look at that when we are making our recommendations.

Fred Oswald – Are the federal folks required to give you that information?

Justin Dolling – They are required to give us a tooth and report the sex and all the information we collect off the sport harvest.

Fred Oswald – So even though there were more kills that were expected in 2007 that didn't effect the population we want to have in Utah and the management statistics showed us that?

Justin Dolling – Yes.

Richard Hansen – How much do the big male bears kill the cubs?

Justin Dolling – There is some mortality but I don't have a good feel for that.

Kevin Bunnell - It probably varies a lot from year to year depending on cub production. We are dealing with bear densities that are pretty low so you don't have big males bumping into females with cubs as often as you would with higher production. I don't think it is something that is probably even measurable here in the state.

Comments from the Public

Jason Binder – President of Utah Federation of Houndsmen – We would like to thank the Division for all their hard work on the bear issues. We support the recommendations for the most part. We don't necessarily agree with the increase in bear tags because they were increased almost 20 percent last year. One concern we have is a motion that was proposed and passed at the southern RAC meeting which was that the beaver unit be increased from eight permits to twelve. We would like to see that stay at eight which is what the Division recommends. Also we don't agree with moving three tags from the fall hunt to the spring. We would like that to stay 23 tags in the spring and 10 tags in the fall to resident hunters a quality hunt without the conflicts they have in the spring. A lot of hunters consider that a premium hunt and we would like to see it stay the same. Thanks for your time.

Chad Coburn – Houndsman – I am glad to see the San Juan unit open for the summer training season. I think that helps with conflicts also. As far as increases, like Mr. Binder said last year we increased permits 20 percent. Our harvest is slowly and continually increasing. I support the Divisions proposal this year but at what point do we stop increasing permits? I support opening the LaSal unit to take the pressure off the San Juan. Our three best pursuit and density units are on the Colorado border. In the state of Colorado you do not have the privilege to run bears with your dogs. They come over here for a \$30 fee, which is the same as me as a resident. I have heard there is nothing we can do about that but the state of Idaho already controls their nonresident houndsmen. I know this is legislative but somewhere, somehow there has to be a way to start controlling the nonresident houndsmen.

RAC Discussion

John Bair – I have has a couple of people ask about the possibility of a premium hunt that would allow someone to hunt the spring and fall hunt? I know the conservation permit holders can. Is there any reason we couldn't do that?

Kevin Bunnell – Nothing that I can think of off the top of my head. We do that with other species. I would want to make sure the public had as much access to those as the conservation permits.

John Bair – I am sure the conservation permits can hunt the spring and the fall.

Kevin Bunnell – I am not sure if they can.

John Bair- Then I lie to everybody every time I sell one. I would like to see a couple permits.

Kevin Bunnell – The best way to start that is to have a recommendation come through the RACs to the Wildlife Board.

Ed Kent – Perhaps we could make a recommendation for the Wildlife Board to put this on an action log to study it?

John Bair – Sure.

Kevin Bunnell – The one impact that would have is you would be taking a tag away from someone else. You would be reducing overall opportunity.

John Bair – You could take a spring tag and let them hunt in the fall too and leave the fall tag alone. That San Juan fall tag right now is as close to a premium bear permit as there is. I really don't think we should take three tags off that unit. I would hate to see that fall tag dropped to seven.

Fred Oswald – I appreciate the houndsmen being here. I understand you support the recommendations but would be interested in seeing fewer permits this year. What kind of numbers would you want to see?

Jason Binder – Last year there was a big increase in tags. I don't have an exact number but the increases need to stop. I wouldn't want to see permits any higher than what is being recommended right now.

Fred Oswald – So you are okay with it going up six percent this year?

Jason Binder – I would like to see it stay the same as last year.

Fred Oswald – Kevin, could you respond to the recommended changes on the San Juan unit?

Justin Dolling – Our local folks were fielding a lot of calls from big game hunters and conflicts associated with big game hunting and hounding and bear hunting. Their recommendation was to try to move some of that activity out of the fall hunt.

Duane Smith – You are increasing tags when there was a high depredation mortality in 2007 and a high sport harvest in 2007. It seems that the reproduction potential of the bears that were taken in 2007 wouldn't be impacted until 2009. I am a bit concerned about a tag increase in 2009 until we see the effect of the high number being taken in 2007.

Justin Dolling – When we looked at the harvest for 2008 and compared that to our performance targets we felt there was still growth potential. Not a huge amount but some. We can look at the 2009 results and make adjustments if needed.

Duane Smith – I just hope it doesn't drop as a result of the lag time between the numbers that were taken in 2007.

Ed Kent – Is there a relationship between a tag reduction or increase and the number of depredation incidents?

Justin Dolling – There may or may not be. Keep in mind that a 17 tag increase represents about six additional harvested bears. A lot of the depredation issues occur as a result of a combination of factors such as lack of forage on the landscape, a dry spring and a lot of other issues. To say that reducing tags will create more problems I wouldn't be comfortable saying that.

Calvin Crandall – Your estimated population is 1,500 to 3,000 bears. What is your management objective?

Justin Dolling – Because we don't know how many bears we have in the state we have to look at harvest and compare it to our performance targets. The plan sets performance targets that we have to meet.

Richard Hansen – Do you have any idea of how bears impact survival rates of calf elk and fawn deer?

Justin Dolling – Bears are opportunistic and will take fawns and calves. We don't have any estimates of what number they are taking.

Kevin Bunnell – What we do know is that behavior is very individualistic. Some bears learn how to do it and actively look for fawns and calves. Indications are it is very few, primarily adult males. Other bears may never take a calf or fawn. There is no way to know which do and which don't. Keep in mind that it is a very narrow window, about a two week period, when those fawns and calves are vulnerable. We believe the impacts are very minimal.

Richard Hansen – I think that in some areas where big game herds are having problems we should be careful about letting bear numbers increase.

John Bair – I want to address this San Juan issue. If this change was for a biological reason I would support a change. It really chaps me when one group of hunters thinks they are more entitled to the mountain than another. Is the money I spent on my elk permit worth more than the money I spent on my bear permit? I have duck hunters interfere with my lion hunt. I had Christmas tree hunters round up my dogs two weeks ago and I spent three hours looking for them while they were in some guy's trailer getting hot chocolate and donuts but I don't come belly aching about them. It is everyone's mountain and everybody needs to learn to get along out there. Those fall permits are all but once-in-a-lifetime deal.

VOTING

Motion was made by John Bair to leave permit numbers on the San Juan unit the same as last year (23 spring and 10 fall permits)

Seconded by Fred Oswald

In Favor: John Bair, Richard Hansen, Gary Nielson, Fred Oswald, Calvin Crandall, Doug Jones

Opposed: Duane Smith

Motion passed 6 to 1

Motion was made by Fred Oswald to accept the balance of the recommendations except for the increase in permit numbers. The permit numbers would stay the same as last year and the Division could determine how many permits on each unit.

Seconded by John Bair

Ed Kent – So your motion is to not approve the total number of permits this year, 330 permits, but to reduce the proposed number of permits to 313, the same as last year.

Kevin Bunnell – To clarify, there was one update since you received your RAC packet so the proposal is 331 permits this year.

Ed Kent – So the motion is to reduce the number of permits from the proposed number to those that were approved and issued last year (313 permits).

Duane Smith – But the motion is to then allow the Division to allocate the 313 permits however they wanted which would conflict with the motion we just passed.

Ed Kent – Do you want to amend your motion, Fred, to exclude the San Juan unit.

Fred Oswald – Yes, with the exception of the San Juan unit.

Ed Kent – So the motion on the table is to approve 313 bear permits to be allocated however the Division chooses with the exception of the San Juan unit. Second stands by John.

Gary Nielson – So if the Division feels like there are enough bear to support some additional harvest what is your reason for wanting to leave it the way it was?

Fred Oswald – All I was saying is that I want the overall numbers reduced to last year's total. If the motion passes they would have 18 fewer permits and they would have to decide where to take them away from.

Motion to approve the bear proclamation and rule with the exception of the increase in permit numbers. The Division would decide how many permits on each unit with the except of the San Juan unit which would remain at 23 spring permits and 10 fall permits as previously voted on.

In Favor: John Bair, Fred Oswald

Opposed: Richard Hansen, Gary Nielson, Duane Smith, Calvin Crandall, Doug Jones

Motion failed 5 to 2

Motion was made by Calvin the approve the balance of recommendations including the increase in permit numbers

Seconded by Doug Jones

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

7) **Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan (Action)**

- **Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator**

Questions from RAC

Richard Hansen – How many antelope were taken off the parker?

Kevin Bunnell – 275 were moved, a few went to Arizona.

RAC Discussion

John Bair – Is there any habitat work we can do that might make them taste better?

VOTING

Motion was made by John Bair to accept the statewide management plan as presented

Seconded by Duane Smith

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

8) **Falconry Rule R657-20 (Action)**

- **Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator**

Questions from RAC

Richard Hansen – A falconer talked to me that was concerned about the person who is over this (Jim Parish) changing the rules. He didn't want anything changed at this point.

Kevin Bunnell – The rule will come before the RAC in May and that would be the time to comment on that. Right now we are just asking for some additional time to get it done. Nothing will change until at the earliest, 2010.

Richard Hansen – So the person over this doesn't have the ability to change things?

Kevin Bunnell – We do have to work within the federal guidelines but we do have some room for changes. Jim will bring this out in May and you will get to see what we are proposing to be different.

VOTING

Motion was made by Fred Oswald to approve the recommendations as proposed

Seconded by Gary Nielson

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

9) Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62 (Action)

- Kenny Johnson, Wildlife Licensing Specialist

Gary Nielson – Is the dedicated hunter a draw going to be before the regular draw so a person would know if they needed to put in for a regular deer permit if they are not in the dedicated hunter program?

Kenny Johnson – The timing on that will be tight but the dedicated hunter draw will be from the end over December, just before the big game application starts.

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by Doug Jones

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

10) Wildlife Convention Permits Rule R657-55 (Action)

- Kenny Johnson, Wildlife Licensing Specialist

Comments from the Public

Miles Moreti – Mule Deer Foundation – As Kenny said, part of the reason this rule is being modified is the wild sheep foundation is leaving and going to Reno and they are not going to be part of the convention. SFW and Mule Deer Foundation have committed to keep the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo here in Salt Lake for at least two more years and we hope five more beyond that. We're also soliciting other partners. We have a conference call on Friday with the National Wild Turkey Federation who is interested in having a western presence. They wouldn't give up their convention at Grand Old' Opry but they would have a western presence. A couple facts, the convention the last two years has probably grossed 18 million dollars for exhibitors, Salt Lake Convention Bureau and the economy of the state of Utah. We have had anywhere from 18 to 20,000 people walk through the doors. It is becoming the show in the west to go to. The convention bureau told us we are in the top ten conventions held in Utah each year. We are growing every year in number of exhibitors and booths. We have premier tags that we auction and fund raise for. It is becoming quite the event and we want to be part of it and we want to be part of this community for a long time. With the Mule Deer Foundation having its national headquarters here in Salt Lake it's nice for us to have a convention here. If we can attract some other partners I think it will be a great benefit to the State of Utah. If you have some questions I will be glad to answer them.

Ed Kent – Do you anticipate a huge setback with FNAWS leavening?

Miles Moreti – A little bit. They attract a little bit different clientele. Some of the outfitters from Alaska may not come down. Next year we may drop in number of booths but we expect the walk in traffic to be the same. Our sponsors are staying with us. The one thing we hope the turkey federation can do is to bring us some additional national sponsors to help sponsor our show. We may be a little bit smaller the first year but I think we will grow after that.

Duane Smith – I don't think that there is any question that this will decrease the amount of tourism that it brings because FNAWS commands a great international audience. I don't think we have any choice but to support the two organizations that are there to carry out the rest of the contract until we see what happens in the last two years. FNAWS will take a lot of big names and international people away.

John Bair – I am going to disagree with Duane a little bit. I think they will take away a few but like Miles said this is quickly becoming the show to go to. I think you will see some of the booths and outfitters go away but I think it will surprise everybody how it still holds together. I bet you five bucks Duane. I make a motion Duane owes me five bucks.

VOTING

Motion was made by John Bair to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by Duane Smith

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

- 11) **Habitat Management Plans (Action)**
- Ashley Green, Habitat Program Coordinator

Questions from RAC

Fred Oswald - Are WMAs typically fenced?

Ashley Green – That is our goal is to have a boundary fence at least as much as possible. Most of these are properties that we acquire from private landowners and some are in pretty poor shape.

Fred Oswald – Are you fencing domestic livestock out?

Ashley Green – That is one of the goals, to protect our lands. We do graze our lands. The Timpanogos WMA is not grazed because we don't have good boundary fences and due to the terrain and how close it is to local municipalities. Our Lasson Draw unit we do graze on an as needed basis.

Fred Oswald – Sheep or cows?

Ashley Green – Either. The biggest reason we fence is to maintain our boundary so people know where our property is. Our biggest problem is threats of adjacent private land and them building over our boundary.

Fred Oswald – Is the Timpanogos unit winter range for elk and deer?

Ashley Green – Yes, a lot. It is really one of the last remaining pieces anywhere in northern Utah County on the east side of the valley.

Fred Oswald – Is it a good place for wildlife viewing in the winter?

Ashley Green – Yes.

Questions from Public

Robert Kessler – You are saying that these WMAs are open but I have gone to lots of them the day before the deer hunt starts and they have been closed. Kamas for example.

Ashley Green - I can't speak for the Kamas unit because it is in the northern region. We do have a few properties in the northern region that have special restrictions and I know of two that don't

have any motorize vehicle access any time of the year. As I said here these units are open. The Timpanogos units has special restrictions but the Lasson Draw unit, which is more typical of most of our land is open most of the year. Almost all the units in the central region have motorized access except for the winter season.

RAC Discussion

Ed Kent – I admire the Division for going out and cooperatively purchasing tracts of land like this to protect and enhance wildlife and also give the public to view wildlife as well as hunt them and essentially enjoy the land. I want to compliment the Division on their efforts to do this for the public.

VOTING

**Motion was made by Gary Nielson to accept the habitat management plans as presented
Seconded by Richard Hansen**

John Bair – It is good to see this kind of stuff going on. Not all states are lucky to have Division's that pursue property like this and they do a good job managing them.

**In Favor: all
Motion passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

16 in attendance

**Next board meeting January 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Monte L. Bean Life Science
Museum, Provo**

Next RAC meeting February 17, 2009 location to be determined

Northern Regional Advisory Council

Dec 17, 2008,

6:00 P.M.

Place: Brigham City Community Center

RAC Present

DWR Present

Wildlife Board

Brad Slater
Lee Shirley
Jon Leonard
Robert Byrnes
Ann Neville
Darwin Bingham
James Gaskill
Ryan Foutz

Jodie Anderson
Justin Dolling
Randy Wood
Ron Hodson
Kevin Bunnell
Scott Davis
Ron Hodson
Greg Sheehan

Ernie Perkins

RAC Absent

Bret Selman
Shawn Groll
Paul Cowley
Mark Marsh

Public Present: See Attached Roll Sheet

Meeting Begins: 6:15 p.m.

Number of Pages: 9

Introduction: Brad Slater- Chair

Agenda:

Review of Agenda
Review of Nov. 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Regional Update
Deer Feeding Policy
Bear Study
Bear Proclamation and Rule R657-33
Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan
Falconry Rule R657-20
Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62
Wildlife Convention Permits Rule R657-55

Item 1. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Gaskill- Accept as published.

Second: Fenimore

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Nov 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Fenimore- Move to accept.

Second: Neville

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 3. Regional Update

Ron Hodson, Regional Supervisor

Working on firebreaks at Coldwater and Middle Fork WMA's to stop fires from outside the WMA from encroaching on the inside. Henefer Echo WMA- did a chaining on the steep hillside and then reseeded area with an airplane to improve Big Game winter range.

Gaskill- Did that rip up any pj with it or did it just disturb the soil?

Hodson- It will tear up pj but they were working in areas where there was a lot of pj.

Built buck and pole fence on the Millville WMA. Habitat improvement project on Mantua Reservoir allowing fish to escape from the predator fish. Vegetation naturally dies in the fall.

Law Enforcement- Keith Fullenkamp Conservation Officer for Davis County.

Personnel Changes- Justin Dolling has moved to Salt Lake as the Game Mammals Program Coordinator. Kara Decorso who works in administration is moving to Tennessee. Hardware Ranch is opening on Friday December 19. Outreach Section in Salt Lake has put together an online photo and video gallery.

RAC Questions

Byrnes- Do you have a link to that website?

Douglass- www.smugmug.com.

Item 4. Deer Feeding Policy

Justin Dolling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Neville- How big of an area are you talking about for this triggers to be implemented?

Dolling- We would look at the unit level.

Fenimore- A couple of years ago, a biologist made a similar presentation. One of the keys he stressed was a certain date to start feeding. Is that factored into this program?

Dolling- I don't recall that particular presentation.

Fenimore- I don't remember the specifics but he essentially said that sometimes when we started deer feeding programs in the past; it was already doomed to failure because we started too late. Is that incorporated into this somehow?

Dolling- That would be captured by the number of triggers that are activated.

Fenimore- Northern Utah 3 winter study said it did not seem to help and I was wondering if it had anything to do with that?

Dolling- I am not familiar with that presentation.

Item 5. Bear Study

Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Fenimore- Will you be able to use these population estimates that seem to be more tangible than previous models of estimating for comparison?

Bunnell- Certainly. We are not going to go through this amount of effort if we are not going to use it in our management. New bear plan in 2 years.

Gaskill- Who is doing the DNA work for you?

Bunnell- A lab out of British Columbia.

Gaskill- Are there any plans to have a DNA lab within the division at some point?

Bunnell- Probably not. We are under contract for the next couple of years.

Gaskill- How many hairs do they require and how do you keep track of bear visits?

Bunnell- We go around each individual barb, collect hair and take a lighter to it to burn off any residual. It is variable on the number of hairs.

Gaskill- If you have the tissue.

Bunnell- You don't always have to have a follicle but it increases your chances.

Gaskill- It is nuclear DNA, not mitochondrial?

Bunnell- I believe it is nuclear.

Item 6. Bear Proclamation and Rule R657-33

Justin Dolling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Kirk Robinson-Western Wildlife Conservancy- What are you doing to try to minimize depredation problems?

Dolling- Wildlife service's did have an experiment the last 2 years. I am not aware of any direct education to teach ranchers.

Bunnell- Most people use guard dogs and have herder's onsite.

Robinson- One of the provisions in the plan was that ranchers should not make certain attempts to reduce those kinds of problems. Is that right? There should be reasonable things to encourage ranchers to do what they can.

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Goal maintaining healthy bear population and target. Manage harvest to maintain, no habitat considerations.

Dolling- It is difficult to estimate how many bears. Performance targets were developed to maintain healthy populations.

Gaskill- When we are trying to maintain healthy deer and elk populations, we improve habitat. Are we doing the same kind of thing with bears?

Dolling- It is a little more challenging to manipulate bear habitat. Try to maintain large blocks of habitat so they can move freely back and forth.

Gaskill- At this point, is it beyond the division's capability?

Dolling- There are some efforts being done that will benefit the bear species. We have not done habitat projects specifically for bears.

Gaskill- I have never seen anything listed for bears. I was just wondering if there is anything planned?

Dolling- It is a little more challenging to design a habitat project to benefit bears.

Gaskill- Expand distribution. Are there places targeted for that expansion?

Dolling- There are some areas like the Deep Creeks, west Box Elder and Southern Utah.

Gaskill- Why is the sport harvest increasing?

Dolling- The number of permits over time has increased over the last 6-7 years.

Public Comment

Ernie Millgate- Utah Federation of Houndsmen- We appreciate what the division has done as far as bear studies. Thank division for summer training season. Education on ethics to avoid conflicts. Federation is concerned about San Juan and La Sal units lost 3 fall harvest permits. Southern RAC Beaver unit have doubled number of permits, is that right?

Bunnell- More than doubled.

Millgate- Southern RAC said they say a bear on the mountain so they increased tags to 12.

Byron Bateman- Commend the Division for following the management plan that they came up with 8 years ago. Follow management plan with more education.

RAC Question

Foutz- Explain why we moved 3 from the fall to the spring?

Dolling- That was a recommendation from our regional biologist. Complaints from big game hunters.

Slater- Still provide opportunity for the hunt during the springtime.

Dolling- The proposal was to take those fall permits into the spring due to those conflicts.

Neville- Would it help to understand the genetics of the animals around the state to do random samples of the hair of harvested bears?

Bunnell- It is fairly costly. We have taken a hair samples in hopes of some opportunities.

Neville- But if you can separate a male from a female.

Bunnell- We already know that because every bear harvested has to be checked in/

Neville- No, as far as when you do the DNA. You can separate male and female if you do X and Y chromosomes.

Bunnell- I guess I am not following. We don't need to do that from the hairs because we already know.

Neville- But you could differentiate between how many different females you have from one male.

Bunnell- Assuming you had enough harvest in a certain area that you could look at offspring. Some are more productive than others.

Motion

Motion: Foutz- Accept the Bear Proclamation as presented.

Second: Bingham

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 7. Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan

Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Kirk Robinson-Western Wildlife Conservancy- Ways of trying to increase numbers of pronghorn. Migration routes in Jackson Hole, is there anything like that in Utah?

Bunnell- I am not aware of big migrations for pronghorn in Utah.

Robinson- Are there any bottlenecks that might involve land ownership that we need to focus on?

Bunnell- Not that I am aware of. Back to your first question, climate change is something we will deal with. It is an 8 year plan. Water is critical and we have put a lot of effort into that. We can manipulate the environment to make it friendlier to pronghorn.

Robinson- Proposal from Southern Nevada water authority. According to your map, a lot of that country is pronghorn country with natural springs. That has to be of some concern.

Bunnell- Pronghorn are one of the species we are concerned about with that individual project.

Robinson- Is the division involved in those negotiations?

Bunnell- Yes. It is more the aquatic folks.

RAC Questions

Gaskill- You did not have a decrease in 2007. How do you account for that?

Bunnell- It is prolonged drought that made an impact on species like pronghorn.

Gaskill- If you get another year like last year, you expect to start seeing it in 2009?

Bunnell- There is a lot of variables. The longer it goes the more impact we see.

Neville- Strategies for habitat management goals. Identifying pronghorn habitat public and private. Are you going to be following human population trends and private property?

Bunnell- In some areas it will. For some populations it will be an impact. It will be focused on particular areas.

Neville- On your map, you have habitat by big game management. I am assuming that Antelope Island is not viable antelope habitat.

Bunnell-We don't manage pronghorn on Antelope Island. It is managed by the division of parks and recreation.

Neville- Is it realistic to come up with a pronghorn management plan and not depict all available habitat so that you can work in conjunction with one another.

Bunnell- That is probably an oversight but it is an island.

Neville- That island habitat extends all the way to Butterfield Canyon.

Bunnell- This is a model of habitat it is never perfect. There are places on here that probably are not pronghorn habitat. It gives us a place to start.

Neville- Maybe you could label a little bit better so we can understand what you are trying to say.

Bunnell- We will take that into consideration.

Hodson- We do manage the wildlife on Antelope Island except the bison. State Parks manage it as a captive herd. The rest of the wildlife fall under our jurisdiction.

Neville- I don't want it only to be a hunting management plan.

Bunnell- My apologies, thanks for the clarification.

Foutz- If there is no hunting on Antelope Island, how do we manage antelope on Antelope Island. Is there a predator management plan in place?

Hodson- There are a lot of coyotes out there. There is no predator management that occurs on the island.

Foutz- Could you put one in there or does that need authorization from the parks?

Hodson- We would not unilaterally go in and do a predator management plan on the island. That would have to be in conjunction with parks.

Slater- Would coyotes be a source population then?

Neville- None of your strategies come under predator control?

Bunnell- That comes under a separate policy.

RAC Comment

Neville- Helpful to have individual maps so we know where you want to put augmentation. More maps and less tables.

Bunnell- In general?

Neville- Yes.

Bunnell- Ok.

Motion

Motion: Foutz- Accept the State wide management plan as presented.

Second: Bingham

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 8. Falconry Rule R657-20

Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Comment

Neville- We have been working with fish and wildlife. I fully agree with what you are trying to propose.

Motion

Motion: Neville- To accept the proposal as presented.

Second: Fenimore

Motion Carries: Unanimously

Item 9. Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services chief

See Handout

RAC Question

Gaskill- Even though some of those don't have drawings, if and when they do, it will apply to this rule?

Sheehan- Right.

Gaskill- We do not have a chukar drawing.

Sheehan- Sharptail grouse and sage grouse will be in a drawing.

Gaskill- The rules will all be consolidated even though there aren't any at the moment.

Sheehan- There are rule components.

Gaskill- That is the whole idea?

Sheehan- Yes.

Motion

Motion: Fenimore- Accept the Divisions proposal.

Second: Shirley

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 10. Wildlife Convention Permits Rule R657-55

Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services chief

See Handout

RAC Questions

Gaskill- If another organization decides that mule deer wanted to bid for this, would this preclude them?

Sheehan- Yes, under this rule.

Gaskill- I was not aware that it expired.

Sheehan- It is basically a one-time rule.

Fenimore- I thought the conventions have been very successful. Is that a fair analysis?

Sheehan- I think they have been run very well.

Fenimore- I am a bit surprised. Why would they want to withdraw from the contract before the term?

Foutz- The people who are involved with Wild Sheep Foundation have gone through some changes and the board decided not to return to Salt Lake City in 2010. They also feel like they lost identity. They want it to be more exclusive.

Fenimore- If they do withdraw, are the remaining organizations going to collapse as well?

Sheehan- I think the division thinks that they could or we would not recommend this rule change.

Byron Bateman- There is still a possibility that the Wild Sheep Foundation might come back in 2011. We want to make sure we continue this current rule for the 5 year period.

Fenimore- What were the dates again?

Bateman- February 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th.

Gaskill- So, it would not preclude additional co-participants from joining?

Sheehan- I probably did not understand.

Gaskill- In addition to my question. I did not word it right.

Sheehan- If this rule were to pass and one of the other 2 groups, either mule deer or sportsman were to take over that contract, they could bring other organizations in.

There could be other groups involved but there could not be another group come in and take it over as a lead group right now.

Neville- Is there any chance that if the original contract conservation organization submits a certified letter to the division identifying that they will no longer be participating. Is there any chance that they can pull out and not write the letter? Does that preclude the other group from moving forward?

Sheehan- I think we have already seen the letter.

Gaskill- That was going to be my next question.

Sheehan- They have up to one year, it would be the 2010 convention.

Gaskill- Wild Sheep is still the sponsoring organization even though they are not going to be?

Foutz- It wouldn't apply until 2010. The 3 organizations are still here for 2009.

Motion

Motion: Byrnes- Accept the changes as presented by the Division.

Second: Neville

Motion Carries: 7 For, 1 Recues (Foutz).

Sheehan gives update from Wildlife Board Meeting.

Meeting Ends: 8:20 p.m.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY-MOTIONS PASSED
Utah Interagency Fire Center/December 11, 2008

7.BEAR PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-33

MOTION: To have the Wildlife Board look at a way to limit non-residents. (Problems with Book Cliffs and other units close to the Colorado/Wyoming border). Possible recommendations: put on action log to revise the non-resident fee structure or create a handler's permit system, like they have in other states.

Passed unanimously

MOTION: to accept rest of proclamation

Passed unanimously

8.STATEWIDE PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION that if there's an antelope reintroduction proposal for the Manti that they create a landowners working group to comment first..

Favor: Rod Morrison, Bob Christensen, Karl Breitenbach

Abstentions: Beth Hamann, Kirk Woodward, Ron Winterton (substitute for Rod Harrison)

MOTION: to accept the remainder as presented

Passed unanimously

9.FALCONRY RULE R657-20

MOTION: to accept falconry extension

Passed unanimously

10.DRAWING APPLICATION PROCEDURES RULE R657-62

MOTION: to accept as presented

Passed unanimously

11. WILDLIFE CONVENTION PERMITS RULE R657-55

MOTION: to accept as presented

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Uintah Interagency Fire Center

Thursday, December 11, 2008

Started at 6:30 pm; Adjourned at 8:30 pm

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Chivers-At Large
Rod Morrison-Sportsmen
Bob Christensen-Forest Service
Amy Torres-Chair
Kevin Christopherson-NER Super.
Karl Breitenbach-At Large
Kirk Woodward-Sportsmen
Beth Hamann-Nonconsumptive
Ron Winterton (substitute
for Rod Harrison Duchesne Co)

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Justin Dolling-Game Mammals Coord.
Kevin Bunnell-Mammals Pgm Coord.
Greg Sheehan-Adm Services Section Chief
Randall Thacker-NER Biologist III
Charlie Greenwood-NER Game Mgr.
Sean Davis-NER Conservaiton Officer
Gayle Allred-NER Administrative Aide
Ron Stewart-NER Conservation Outreach

EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

Curtis Dastrup-Agriculture
Rod Harrison-(elected official, sent
Ron Winterton as a substitute)
Carlos Reed-Native American
Floyd Briggs-At Large

1.APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Karl Breitenbach: to accept the agenda

Second by Bob Christensen

2,3.APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND OLD BUSINESS

MOTION by Karl Breitenbach to accept the minutes from the last RAC meeting

Second by Beth Hamann

4.REGIONAL UPDATE-Kevin Christopherson, Northeastern Region Supervisor

Wildlife Board Decisions:

3-Corners and Diamond Mountain general season spike elk hunts were excluded from the change.

Wildlife Board will put a committee together to look at a proposal to look at wheel chair hunters requests.

The Dedicated Hunter Rule was changed. They waived the renewal for RAC requirement but doubled the hours needed from 24 to 40; inserted a course; initiated a preference point for those who have completed their hours; and now allow them to buy out 30 hours.

Budget cuts:

So far, UDWR is facing a 5% budget cut. Our annual budget is 55 million but only 5 million is general funds. So we took a 250,000 dollar cut. The Governor has asked all agencies to decide how they would map out a 7% budget cut on top for next years budget.

We were planning to interview a game biologist and a habitat biologist but those positions have been put on hold.

The pronghorn trap is operating right now. They didn't get 100 so they'll trap again tomorrow. We're hoping for 100 in NERO.

NER's second bison transplant will be in January. RAC members are invited to attend. January 9-12 will be the capture dates. The bison will be disease tested, then released on January 14-16 tentatively.

Rod Morrison: Can we get the draw list accessible to the public?

Kevin Christopherson: Privacy laws prevent us from publishing those lists. The good old days of posting them by names and addresses are over for now.

5.DEER FEEDING POLICY: Justin Dolling (INFORMATIONAL)

See handout

Questions from Public:

Mitch Hacking: What do you like to feed the deer?

Justin Dolling: We borrowed a formula from Colorado which includes protein, carbohydrates mixed into a pellet.

Mitch Hacking: So you don't want to go buy a haystack.

Justin Dolling: They make the ingredients into a larger wafer pellet.

Larry Massey: How quick can you put this together?

Justin Dolling: We're not mobilizing on an annual basis. But last year we were able to mobilize within about three days.

Kevin Christopherson: Please explain the RAC why don't we feed in CWD areas?

Justin Dolling: Disease is a big issue, because when you concentrate animals in a small area the disease can go up dramatically. It would be a big risk in a CWD area to accelerate the transmission of the disease through that population.

Larry Massey: On CWD, how much did you find during the last deer season?

Justin Dolling: I don't know if they found any positives or not for this year.

Kevin Christopherson: I haven't heard of any from this year yet.

Justin Dolling: If your area tests positive, you're positive for years because of prions in the soil.

Josh Horrocks: Is the only place they have fed the deer in Logan, or are there other places?

Justin Dolling: Cache Valley, Rich County, Bear Lake, Ogden Valley, areas adjacent to Morgan, Kamas and Coalville.

Josh Horrocks: So just the northern area:

Justin Dolling: The region was done to lure animals away.

Kevin Bunnell: I think in the 80s they did some.

Josh Horrocks: So this area tests positive?

Justin Dolling: Yes, on the South Slope and North Slope

Questions from RAC: None

**6.BEAR STUDY: Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator
(INFORMATIONAL)**

See handout re: Estimating Utah's Black Bear population using Mark-Recapture

Questions from Public:

Mitch Hacking: On your charts showing populations in the U.S. Do these states all allow bear hunting?

Kevin Bunnell: I'm not sure about North Carolina, Virginia and Florida.

Mitch Hacking: If you had a state where they don't hunt, how can they compare?

Kevin Bunnell: It could be, but I don't think we're influencing the number in Utah through our Harvest. The population isn't going down as a product of hunting or going up from not hunting. If they have more food, they're more tolerant of each other. It still should be a valid comparison whether they're hunting or not.

Questions from RAC:

Bob Christensen: With the study choice in the NE Region being between the Book Cliffs or South Slope, I'm wondering what the reason is between the two?

Randall Thacker: What area will be the most representative moisture wise, or vegetation wise. The Book Cliffs would be a different ecotype but there is a lot of development going on and it's a lot of driving. Also there have already been a lot of studies done out there.

Kevin Bunnell: If you have thoughts about where you'd like to see the study, let us know.

Karl Breitenbach: You might want to partner with the universities.

Kevin Bunnell: We're currently under contract with a Vancouver company but when that contract expires, we'll look locally.

7.BEAR PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-33: Justin Dolling (ACTION)

Bear Mgt Plan

See handout

Questions from Public:

David Bailey: On the Southeastern Region, is the LaSals where they come off the Green River?

Justin Dolling: Where they're having problems are in the Southeast region.

David Bailey: Isn't the Book Cliffs in the Southeastern Region?

Kevin Christopherson: The Book Cliffs unit covers both the Southeastern and the Northeastern Regions.

David Bailey: Is that in an effort to minimize watermelon problems?

Justin Dolling: No. We have other techniques to deal with that issue.

David Bailey: Have there been any problems with honey down there and the bees?

Kevin Bunnell: It does happen on occasion and is dealt with through electrical fencing. The problem is sometimes we don't become aware until it's too late.

David Bailey: I about hit a bear going between watermelon fields.

Josh Horrocks: Will you explain what you're discontinuing for 2009?

Justin Dolling: An experiment in 2008 to help harvest in problem areas, trying to match hounds men with license holders but it only resulted in two additional bears being taken.

Josh Horrocks: What about depredation technicians contacting hunters to pursue a problem bear?

Justin Dolling: That's a different system and it is working for us.

Josh Horrocks: So I guess I never knew about this thing you're getting rid of.

Justin Dolling: A lot of times you have bear hunters who weren't as skilled or educated in hunting bears matched up with hounds men to work on chronic problems.

Josh Horrocks: So they could have hired a guide?

Justin Dolling: Yes. These others were just volunteers.

Larry Massey: Can we do anything as far as non-residents as far as pursuit. Could you limit the number of non residents for the pursuit?

Justin Dolling: Because pursuit doesn't end up in the take of a bear it falls under commerce and attorney general told us we could not do it.

Brad Horrocks: We would like to see the price go up for a non resident pursuit permit.

Kevin Bunnell: License fees have to come through legislature annually. We can keep it on the list to address next year. You can have the RAC make a motion to have the Wildlife Board put it on their action list.

Kevin Bunnell: Colorado doesn't allow hounding so a lot of Colorado hounds men come over to Book Cliffs and the border area totals about 20 percent.

Kevin Christopherson: What's your concern?

Larry Massey: There are too many people out there. I've been doing it for 30 years and

the last 6 years or so it's gotten a lot worse.

Kevin Bunnell: And there is no cap. It is statewide.

Larry Massey: Other states have to have a handler's permit as well for hounds men in Idaho before you can even handle dogs, and they have that on a drawing.

Questions from RAC: None

Comments from Public: None

Comments from RAC:

Rod Morrison: I would like to see something on application form to be contacted if there's a bear depredation problem.

Kevin Christopherson: We have a list for people who have unfilled tags.

Charlie Greenwood: That's a good idea.

Greg Sheehan: We generate lists pretty frequently for people who didn't fill their tags. We didn't call non residents or people who lived far away. We called people who lived nearby.

Kevin Christopherson: 07 was an anomaly. These bears were a threat to humans or live stock so were not wasting any time taking these bears. That was not a typical year. Don't use 2007 as a normal year. It wasn't, and hopefully they won't see that again.

Sean Davis: Most of these bears are young and hunters don't want to take a young bear.

Charlie Greenwood: We call spring hunters whose hunt is over and they may be more willing to take a bear in the fall.

Randall Thacker: Our biggest take is ADC problems to take those as depredation on livestock that have to be taken that day.

Rod Morrison: I understand that.

Karl Breitenbach: I do get some feedback from bear hunters regarding the archery hunt. There's a conflict of all the different hunts going on simultaneously.

MOTION by Karl Breitenbach to look at a way to limit non-resident bear pursuit.

Amy Torres: We could make a motion to have the Wildlife Board put it on their action log to look into ways to look at the bear fee structure, and recommend either a fee change or a handler's permit system.

So moved.

REVISED MOTION by Karl Breitenbach to look at a way to limit non-resident bear pursuit, have the Wildlife Board put it on their action log to look into ways to look at the bear fee structure, and recommend either a fee change or a handler's permit system.

Second by Kirk Woodward

Passed unanimously

MOTION by Dave Chivers to accept the rest of the bear proclamation as presented

Second by Bob Christensen

Passed unanimously

Kevin Christopherson: I would like to thank the Forest Service for your efforts to bear proof trash containers and educate the public.

Dave Chivers excused

8.STATEWIDE PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT PLAN: Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator (ACTION)

Questions from Public:

David Bailey: Is there any reason why this management plan isn't treated like deer and elk as far as getting a group together?

Kevin Christopherson: We don't have major issues with pronghorn so we sent it out for comments but didn't have any issues.

David Bailey: We don't have any information on being contacted in the past. Can you look that up? We don't have a huge issue except one small issue on the Manti.

Kevin Bunnell: I can look and see if you were contacted. Manti is not on the record, but they wanted it listed for some time in the future if they feel it's appropriate.

David Bailey: I'll wait till the comment section to see if we can get information to get a response together. We're not overly concerned.

Questions from RAC:

Beth Hamann: The pronghorn that you're trapping now, is that going to our predator

feeding program?

Randall Thacker: What predator plan are you referring to?

Karl Breitenbach: In the last RAC meeting, Dax Mangus said they were turning animals loose but a lot were being taken, and that they don't even know how many animals are there.

Charlie Greenwood: We fly every year. We know how many are there. The Book Cliffs population is going down.

Beth Hamann: We asked what you are doing to provide habitat and water.

Charlie Greenwood: We've had a guzzler crew to repair our guzzlers that catch water in the desert to get them up and going and build new guzzlers, which are all working now. Our habitat projects have been higher up in the sage brush pinion juniper, but we have some antelope get up that high too. Last winter we lost antelope because of the deep snow.

Amy Torres: What is the limiting factor?

Charlie Greenwood: It's mainly drought that hammers our animals.

Beth Hamann: Why are you putting them out there if there's drought and they're going to die?

Charlie Greenwood: We want to bring the herds back in the Basin. There have been ten years of drought. We broke that last year with a heavy winter. We want to recover the populations.

Randall Thacker: These units have a carrying capacity for four to five times the number of animals we have had if we have water. Snow depth is not a predictor. This last spring and summer had three really good storms in June and July that dramatically improved grass in the range. Last fall the antelope we put out there had a great summer because of these three rain storms. We don't know what next spring will bring but this is the timeframe to capture the antelope. We are trying to release them at higher elevations to help them in case there is a drought. Also, we are having ear tags to help follow up. The cost of radio collars is cost prohibitive.

Beth Hamann: Dax said you wanted 600 antelope in the area but no one had any idea how many survived.

Amy Torres: When he presented it, he made it sound like you were turning them out but we weren't able to track what was causing the mortality.

Charlie Greenwood: I believe the count was 300 on Book Cliffs and 300 on Anthro.

There used to be more.

Beth Hamann: Is it doing any good?

Charlie Greenwood: The only antelope herds we had in this region were up in Daggett County. The Bonanza, Bitter Creek, Anthro, and Vernal have been started by transplants in the past. You can see they have been doing very well, but then the drought hit.

Kevin Christopherson: We are “betting on the come” so the population doesn’t crash completely and we have to start over. The good news is these are extra animals because we’re trying to reduce the populations on the Parker.

Beth Hamann: Is there a better place to put the antelope while you’re improving the habitat here?

Randall Thacker: The goal was 400 if 200 went to Mexico, and we’ll be bringing 100 to our region.

Bob Christensen: In the past, the guzzlers haven’t been maintained. There’s been a big effort the last few years to get the guzzlers up and going, as well as burning projects to get forbs and grasses going.

Charlie Greenwood: The antelope are going to a higher elevation where the burn has gone through.

Brad Horrocks: I’d definitely like to see them here instead of Mexico.

Kevin Christopherson: There’s not a biologist alive who didn’t wish they had more data. We’re always balancing the cost of project vs. a research project which would be expensive. It would be better if we had better data to take the guesswork out, but it is expensive.

Beth Hamann: I guess the fellow last month offended me by seeming to say we have extra antelope that we’re just going to throw out. How long will you do these transplants?

Randall Thacker: It’s a wonderful opportunity to be able to get them locally from Parker Mountain.

Kevin Christopherson: There’s a lot of timing stuff in there and we’re trying to keep the population viable. That’s the most cost-effective way to do it even though it seems harsh in a way to put animals out when they’re not flourishing and hope for a good production next year.

Comments from Public:

David Bailey: On that Manti unit make sure to have a working group.

Comments from RAC: None

RAC Motion and Discussion

Amy Torres: Does anybody want to make a motion to request that there be a working group for the Manti unit?

Karl Breitenbach: Is that our RAC?

Amy Torres: It's in the Southeastern Region. Was it addressed at their RAC?

David Bailey: It wasn't. I wasn't at that meeting.

Amy Torres: We have an obligation to address it.

MOTION by Karl Breitenbach that, if there is an antelope reintroduction proposal for the Manti, that they create a working group to study it first.

Second by Rod Morrison

Favor: Rod Morrison, Bob Christensen, Karl Breitenbach

Abstentions: Beth Hamann, Kirk Woodward, Ron Winterton (substitute for Rod Harrison)

Motion passed

MOTION BY Karl Breitenbach to accept the remainder as presented

Second by Kirk Woodward

Passed unanimously

9.FALCONRY RULE: Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator (ACTION)

Questions from Public: None

Questions from RAC:

Kirk Woodward: This would be a small group. Are the falconers involved with this?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes, and there's really no choice because if not, we're outside of the

Federal rule.

Comments from Public: None

Comments from RAC: None

MOTION by Karl Breitenbach to accept the falconry section as presented

Second by Bob Christensen

Passed unanimously

10.DRAWING APPLICATION PROCEDURES RULE: Greg Sheehan (ACTION)

Consolidate one rule to deal with all the drawings instead of multiple rules.

See handout

Questions from Public:

Brad Horrocks: Did they get it handled with people who had groups and the person with maximum points gave their permit back and kept their points?

Greg Sheehan: One of the recommendations was to not allow groups. Another was if you surrender, you wouldn't get a point. But what came out was that there will still be group applications for limited entry but if you want to surrender as a group, everybody in the group has to surrender, and it has to be done 30 days before the hunt starts (unless it's activated through military).

David Bailey: What happens if they surrender the permit?

Greg Sheehan. The permit will be reallocated. There were people who scouted and decided the weather or conditions weren't right and surrendered it the day before. The next person down the list may get the permit but if they get it the day before the hunt, they will of course accept it, but they haven't had time to scout.

You can't put in for multiple species, except nonresidents can put in for all species. Only 8% of the tags go to nonresidents anyway so if they want to spend a lot of money on application fees it really doesn't affect residents.

Here are some more items which the Wildlife Board passed:

If you don't apply for three consecutive years, you will lose your bonus points. That won't go into effect until three years from now. So starting this year, if you don't put in for three consecutive years, you will lose your points.

The general youth were raised to 20%. Same deal. If one person surrenders in a group, all will have to surrender.

Mitch Hacking: I notice issues come up at Wildlife Board that haven't been discussed at RACs. How do you guys feel about this?

Greg Sheehan: Sometimes we are as perplexed as you are. I did a summary of the last RAC's recommendations and all had different recommendations. The Wildlife Board has the same freedom.

Brad Horrocks: If it was discussed on the RAC levels I can see it, but I would like to see it brought back locally.

Greg Sheehan: It usually works out. They're trying to work through a difficult situation and when five RACs come up with five different recommendations, what do they do?

Mitch Hacking: Sometimes RAC areas are different and how people feel the wildlife are different.

Kirk Woodward: They took Diamond Mountain off because we had a legitimate concern just based on our RAC.

Amy Torres: That's why we have people on the Wildlife Board who represent our region, and Stoney McCarrell was there to represent Diamond Mountain.

Brad Horrocks: We recommended Book Cliffs be included in not being on a spike elk unit area.

Amy Torres: The Wildlife Board did mention it. It was taken into account.

Greg Sheehan: The statewide spike was a big issue and I think they listened on that one.

Questions from RAC: None

Comments from Public: None

Comments from RAC: None

MOTION by Bob Christensen

Second by Kirk Woodward

Unanimous

11. WILDLIFE CONVENTION RULE: Greg Sheehan (ACTION)

Modification
See handout

They're not conservation permits sold at banquets. They're sold at two conventions a year held at the Salt Palace. They're not sold at auctions. On a five-year block. Currently the contract was awarded to FNAWS... but they might not come out to Salt Lake in 2010 so they may need to reward it to another group like the Mule Deer Foundation and SFW.

They wanted to be in a party city and Salt Lake's not it. They want to go to Reno.

Ray Crow (Mule Deer Foundation): This was a joint national effort for the three groups.

Mitch Hacking: Is there any other organization that could come in?

Greg Sheehan: Our plan is at the end of five years to decide if it's going to happen any more.

Ray Crow: The original plan was that it was an event that would draw at least 10,000 people and we have surpassed that. It should have that many people even if FNAWS isn't a participant. We made sure we're not going to conflict shows with times.

Kirk Woodward: So they'll go from SCI to Reno, FNAWS, Reno and Salt Lake.

Brad Horrocks: The permits that are given for this deal, is that including the permits that are auctioned here, and sportsman's permits?

Greg Sheehan: If they take one deer permit out as these it would come out of the total.

Brad Horrocks: Where does the five dollar application fee go?

Greg Sheehan: It goes to them. We get the money from the draw; they get the application fee.

Ray Crow: What we committed as an organization to do was help the economy in the area and put dollars on the ground in the area. We have guzzler projects we're involved in, and chaining projects, in this area. So it's money we committed to the Tabby Mountain State School Trust. It is separate money than Conservation Permit money; it is money going back out on the ground. Obviously money goes to pay for the overhead of the convention but there is money that goes on the ground.

Of 200 permits there were 8000 people times \$5.00 equals \$40,000.

Questions from Public: None

Questions from RAC: None

Comments from Public: None

Comments from RAC:

Rod Morrison: So there are a lot of habitat projects that are not going to happen if these convention permits are not available?

Ray Crow: Of course; these go on the ground.

Greg Sheehan: Three million dollars goes toward approved habitat projects or equipment.

Rod Morrison: That works for me.

Ray Crow: And we deal with a lot of matching funds with the Forest Service and other conservation groups.

Greg Sheehan: Our habitat money last year was 11 million dollars.

David Bailey: Are there fence boards on how many people can do this?

Greg Sheehan: Virtually all the big groups came in; the Turkey Foundation, FNAWS, Rocky Mountain Elk, etc. At the end, the Turkey Foundation and Rocky Mountain Elk changed their minds. You have to be a 501 C Organization to even do this.

MOTION by Kirk Woodward to accept as presented

Second by Rod Morrison

Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next NER RAC meeting will be February 12, 2009 on Non-consumptive Issues and Five-Year Rule Reviews

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Beaver High School
Beaver, UT
December 9, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

BEAR PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-33

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented with the exception of the Beaver Mountain to increase the permit number to 12 permits.

VOTE: 5 in favor, 3 opposed

STATEWIDE PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: To accept the Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

FALCONRY RULE R657-20

MOTION: To accept the Falconry Rule R657-20 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

DRAWING APPLICATION PROCEDURES RULE R657-62

MOTION: To accept the Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

WILDLIFE CONVENTION PERMITS RULE R657-55

MOTION: To accept the Wildlife Convention Permits Rule R657-55 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

2009 RAC SCHEDULE

MOTION: To accept the 2009 RAC Schedule as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
 Beaver High School
 Beaver, UT
 December 9, 2008
 7:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Dell LeFevre Jack Hill Chairman Jake Albrecht James Edwards Steve Flinders Gary Hallows Rex Stanworth Clair Woodbury Steve Dalton	Douglas Messerly Natalie Brewster Teresa Bonzo Heather Perry Lynn Chamberlain Linda Smith Scott Dalebout Vance Mumford Chris Schultz Kevin Bunnell Justin Dolling Kenny Johnson Teresa Bonzo	Paul Neimeyer	Sam Carpenter Paul Briggs Cordell Pearson

Chairman Jake Albrecht called the Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. There were approximately 5 interested parties in attendance in addition to the RAC members, Wildlife Board members and DWR employees.

Jake Albrecht: . . . Is Jake Albrecht. I represent the elected officials on this RAC. At this time I'd like to recognize our Wildlife Board members, which is Paul Neimeyer, who's here with us tonight, and also Tom Hatch, who hasn't shown yet but he probably will. I'd like to excuse tonight, Paul Briggs, Sam Carpenter, and Cordell Pearson, for a variety of reasons they couldn't be here. And with that I'm going to start on my left with Jack Hill and have the RAC members introduce their selves.

Rex Stanworth: Rex Stanworth and I represent at large.

Jim Edwards: Jim Edwards, I represent the sportsman.

Douglas Messerly: I'm Doug Messerly, Regional Supervisor for the Division of Wildlife Resources out of Cedar City. Myself and my staff act as executive secretary to this committee.

Steve Flinders: Steve Flinders from here in Beaver. I represent the Dixie and Fish Lake National Forests.

Dell LeFevre: Dell LeFevre, Boulder Escalante area, represent agriculture.

Gary Hallows: Gary Hallows from Loa, agriculture.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, for our agenda tonight, after each presentation we will have questions from the RAC, and then we'll have questions from the public. And then after that we'll have comments from the public, which is three minutes per individual and five minutes if you're with a group. And then comments from the RAC, a RAC motion, discussion and a vote. If you want to make some public comments some of these gentlemen with the DWR have some comments cards. We need to have you put your name on there and what you'd like to talk about so that we know where to put you in the agenda order.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

-Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Jake Albrecht: Okay, with that I'd like to go to the review and acceptance of our RAC meeting agenda. Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a recommendation that we accept the agenda as written. And also, I'd make a recommendation at this time to accept the minutes.

Jim Edwards: Okay, we have a motion by Rex Stanworth and a second by Jim Edwards to accept both the meeting agenda and the minutes. Any other discussion? All in favor, aye. Any against? Motion carries.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept Jim Edwards seconded. Unanimous

Jake Albrecht: Please let the minutes show that Clair Woodbury showed up, will you? Okay, I'm going to turn the time to Heather Perry for the procedure for dedicated hunters to receive RAC credit. This is an informational item.

Procedure for Dedicated Hunters to Receive RAC Credit (Informational)

-Heather Perry, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator
Heather Perry:

2:30 to 4:24 of 22:04:16

Wildlife Board Update:

-Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Jake Albrecht: Thanks Heather. Okay, I'm going to go on to the Wildlife Board Update. This is also informational and hopefully I have everything right. And I'm going to skip a couple of them because I don't know all the true information that came out of them until I see some of the minutes that came out of the Wildlife Board.

- On a statewide deer plan, was passed that at the Salt Lake Office, very similar to ours. One of the things that they'll be interested in is statewide deer is nine days statewide, all the regions.
- On bucks and bulls, passed very similar to our Southern, with the exception that on the Henry's 50 to 60 percent of the bucks have to be five-years or older. And on the Paunsaugunt 40 to 60 have to be in that 5-years or older. And if Doug's got anything else that he'd like to bring up on either one of those items he is welcome to, that I might have missed there.
- CWMU recommendations, was passed as presented.
- The Landowner permit recommendation was also passed as presented.
- Depredation rule, I think that was passed as presented by the DWR.
- The bonus point recommendation, I'm not going to get into it this time because I don't have the minutes from the meeting up there. That was a long agenda item. I think it was probably an hour or two hours on that alone. So some of those you might pull up on the website and see what actually happened on there. And it will actually be good, I think, in the long run for what they did there.
- Dedicated hunter program, if you're a dedicated hunter and you're going out of the program this year you will receive a preference point when you re-up for next year. An automatic preference point. So it gives you one up on the people that are new that haven't been in the program. You'll be able to have a preference point there. Also, the work hours have changed; they went from 24 to 40 hours over a three-year period. If you don't work your last years hours then you don't get the preference point to re-up. I think that pretty much covers that, doesn't it? Yeah, you don't get your preference or you don't get to re-up is the way I remember it. You can buy some of the hours. I think it was 24 out of the 40. 30? 30 out of the 40. Anyway when that comes up on the website you'll be able to pull that information up. I think the feeling of some of the Wildlife Board members was there's so many people wanting to get into the program that they really want to see how dedicated you are. And if you're dedicated enough to work the 40 hours and do some of the other things why you'll stay with the program. If you're not why you'll probably drop out and the new applicants will come in. The other thing is there's no RAC meetings that you have to attend. It's an online course that you're able to take over the Internet or through your computer. And you have to take that before you can actually get involved. But those are the main things

with that one.

- The antler gathering was passed as presented also.

Jake Albrecht: And that's all of the agenda items that I have from the Wildlife Board meeting. Doug.

Regional Update:

-Douglas Messerly, Southern Regional Supervisor

- Douglas Messerly: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of points on that board meeting, we're working feverishly to get that information out on the web so that people can get a clear understanding of what was actually passed. There were a lot of agenda items and a lot of information, obviously, that was generated as a result of that meeting. So in any event, the website is probably the best place to get that information as far as what actually passed.
- I have a little bit of disturbing news, we seem to be having a rash of poaching activity in the Southern region over the last few weeks. Wildlife officers within the last week served a search warrant in St. George where they recovered seven illegally taken deer, two of which were trophies. And that's just one in a series of unrelated cases as far as we know that are going on. So I would make an appeal for the public to help us protect our wildlife and let us know about suspicious activity.
- The turkey application period is currently on, it goes until the 30th of December. So make yourself a note if you're going to apply and you haven't yet to get that done.
- The dedicated hunter application period is coming up right soon, it's the 29th of December through the 12th of January. And this is the first year that we're going to do the drawing so people have got to be ready for that and get their applications in.
- The big game application period is January 22nd through February 26th. And we expect a lot of activity there also.
- In line with the RAC business, I received notice the other day from the Salt Lake Office that three of the RAC members' terms will expire. Their second terms will expire in June of this year. And we'll be looking for an agricultural representative, a sportsman's representative, and a non-consumptive representative. So I would encourage the RAC to forward any potential nominations to myself and or Jake, and we'll work through that process. That won't occur until June or July but I'd like us to be thinking about that.
- Habitat projects are in progress this time of year. This is the really busy time of year for them. They should be completed hopefully before the end of December but sometimes we go into January with those. But you'll see us out doing those projects at this time too.
- We're still classifying deer for the post season classification for the

year 2008. And those should be concluded before the end of the month also. And our elk surveys will start in January. We don't have specific dates at this time.

- The pronghorn trap, and I'd like to invite all the RAC members and Board members to attend that. Our safety-briefing meeting is tomorrow night at 7:00 in Torrey. And that activity will start on Thursday morning, early, on the Parker Mountain, at Jakes Knoll. Anyone, and also over by Bicknell Reservoir. If anyone's interested in attending that please get with Teresa or me, during or after the meeting, and we can give you specific directions.

Douglas Messerly: With that that's my presentation, unless there are questions.

Jake Albrecht: Do you have a question? Yeah and then it will be read into the minutes. Yeah, just state your name and then your question.

Bill Hagen: My name is Bill Hagen and I am relatively new to this area. And the procedures are a little strange coming from Virginia, so um, totally different system. Currently the new members have to complete all of their hours by the second year. Will this 40-hour requirement carry over and have to be completed by the second year as well?

Douglas Messerly: Actually, what was discussed at the meeting and what the recommendation was 16-hours the first year, 16-hours the second year and 8-hours the third year, had to be completed by December 15th of the third year.

Bill Hagen: Okay, so it is spread over the three years.

Douglas Messerly: 16, 16, and 8, yes.

Bill Hagen: Okay, thank you.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, with that we'll go to deer feeding policy, and this is an informational item.

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Jack.

Jack Hill: I didn't get a chance to comment on old business. May I?

Jake Albrecht: Old business?

Jack Hill: Yeah, may I?

Jake Albrecht: On what business?

Jack Hill: Old business. My agenda it says old business, item number 3. I'd like to ask a

question if I may.

Jake Albrecht: Okay so you're looking at the white paper.

Jack Hill: Yeah, yeah. What I got from in my packet.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. We'll let you your question but the yellow paper is our agenda.

Jack Hill: Oh well, there's no old business on that agenda.

Jake Albrecht: So what's your question?

Jack Hill: Sorry to bother ya. Oh, uh, when I first came on the RAC there was a policy whereby if an action was taken by the RAC and the Board voted against our action there was to have been, well there was in the past I remember, some kind of statement from the Board . . .

Jake Albrecht: Some type of letter stating why they did that. Is that what you're getting to?

Jack Hill: Yeah. I thought I would be able to talk but I guess not. Yeah, that's my question.

Jake Albrecht: I think what that was is, is if there wasn't any discussion held on it and they voted to do different than what we did then they would send out a reason why. But, if they discussed it then you will have those minutes that we can go through.

Jack Hill: Well I looked on the Internet and I couldn't find anything there that talked about it.

Jake Albrecht: Yeah, I looked at that today. They're up through September. So not into October and November.

Jack Hill: And I thought uh, at some point in time someone would give us some kind of indication on why that motion was made on big game board to implement the Strawberry slot limit on Panguitch Lake.

Jake Albrecht: Did I read that right Paul, what I just said?

Paul Neimeyer: (Statement inaudible, not made into mic.)

Jake Albrecht: So what Paul's saying is if they didn't discuss it, they just made a motion to approve it, and it was different than what we approved then they send a letter. If it's not and they have discussed it then it's actually in our minutes where we can go through those. And I have a copy of those, all of those if you want them.

Paul Neimeyer: (Statement inaudible, not made into mic.).

Jake Albrecht: Okay. We're going to move on. Deer Feeding Policy, informational, Justin Dolling.

Jack Hill: I thought that was a policy. Policies are changed by action of the Board.

Deer Feeding Policy (informational)

17:43 to 32:04 of 2:04:16

-Justin Dolling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Okay, questions from the RAC? Rex Stanworth.

Questions from the RAC:

Rex Stanworth: I guess one of the question I've got is uh, I noticed in discussion about where deer usually are and the havoc that they raise, but I know in Salt Lake and Provo and some of those other areas where the houses have built up on the side of the hill and all of a sudden the homes are overrun by deer coming in to eat their shrubs. Are you looking at anything for those, of trying to lure those deer away from the home areas? Because I know accident wise, um, the devastation they make on people's shrubs and that, plus it seems like we always get a cougar or two that come down there for those, for those deer in those low lying areas. So I guess, are you thinking of anything, feeding areas in the suburbs where you may could attract deer away from those homes?

Justin Dolling: Well actually to the contrary. In those urban areas we'd like to reduce the number of deer that live there. We have resident deer, we have migratory deer, and the resident deer pose all kinds of problems just like you indicated. So our feeling there is that we'd like to reduce the densities or the populations of deer in urban environments and not promote their presence. So we're not suggesting to feed in those urban interface areas for the purpose of trying to reduce damage to shrubs and different ornamentals that are planted in urban environments.

Rex Stanworth: Okay, I realize that your not trying to get them to be there but they are there and I've seen, I've seen seventeen head of deer in my, in my sister-in-law's back yard. So, uh, it comes to be quite an effort. And then not only that but uh, the, like I say, the damages to cars are they, they're spooked out of one yard to another one, somebody coming down the hill are done. The other question I've got is uh, I realize that you don't want to have private individuals feeding these animals but I'm wondering are you thinking that uh, with the voluntary feed that these deer are receiving, whether it's home scraps or hay, like you said, or whatever it may be, are you thinking that there may be any benefit to making some of these pellets available to those people that absolutely insist on feeding these deer? Because they're doing it. And I'm just wondering if they're going to do it we may recommend to them, if you're going to feed them at least come to us and let us sell you the pellets.

Justin Dolling: Yeah I mean first of all we discourage citizens from feeding deer, for all the reasons I went through. Um, if people insist on feeding our policy will include the formulation used, that we used last year that we borrowed from Colorado. And I guess folks, if they wanted to could foot the bill to have that product produced. But we would first off take the position that they shouldn't be feeding. Winter is Mother Nature's way of keeping populations in check. And feeding should not be used as a way to artificially elevate populations. It should only be used as a means to carry through some parent stock in very, very extreme conditions and allow for that next generation to get started. So that would be our position, as we would

strongly discourage feeding by private citizens.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? I have one: On the fifty dollars per animal, does is that including the volunteer hours that you get from organizations and groups? That's what that averages out at?

Justin Dolling: Yes it would include the cost of the feed, the cost of the labor, the materials, all the equipment, and that would include volunteer time as well. It's probably a little conservative. Last year in Northern Utah we fed about 14,000 deer and we estimated that cost one quarter million dollars. And I know that's conservative because there were other folks putting out feed. That was just the stuff that we were involved in.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC?

Rex Stanworth: I just got one.

Jake Albrecht: Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I know we rarely receive any money from non-hunters but, is there any place where we ask citizens to possibly donate cash to that, if the feeding becomes necessary? I remember what, two or three years ago up in the Northern part, there was a huge outcry from the public about the deer and the elk that were there around the foothills of Salt Lake. But I'm just wondering is there a mechanism by which they can donate? And is it on the website if they decided they wanted to?

Justin Dolling: Yeah there's a mechanism for folks to donate to the Division of Wildlife. We didn't advertise that on the Internet. That would be a good, a very good suggestion is if we do get into this situation again uh, maybe solicit donations. But uh, people can come in and donate at will to the Division of Wildlife Resources and we can put that money in a dedicated account for reasons that they want to donate it for.

Rex Stanworth: Well I would personally say that if this goes, if this triggers I would sure say that that ought to be something the Division may want to put a news release and put it on the Division's website. If you want to donate to the feeding of the deer here's how you do it. Every hundred bucks is a hundred bucks that . . .

Justin Dolling: Yeah, yeah. Actually a donation would be more productive than trying to feed deer in somebody's back yard.

Rex Stanworth: I agree.

Justin Dolling: I agree with ya.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

None

Jake Albrecht: We have no comment cards. Does anybody have any that they're holding or anything? Okay. Comments from the RAC?

Comments from the RAC:

None

Jake Albrecht: Okay. Thank you for presenting that for us.

Comments from the Public:

None

Jake Albrecht: Our next item is Bear Study. This one is also informational, Kevin Bunnell.

Bear Study (informational)

39:04 of 50:12 of 2:04:16

-Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Questions from the RAC? Rex Stanworth.

Questions from the RAC:

Rex Stanworth: Do you mark those barbwire areas? Do you mark anything there so that somebody in a twilight factor or dark would not walk into those?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, we have signs around, you know, posted around all of them to let people know what they are as much as anything, so that they're not trying to keep people from messing with them. And so far we haven't had any issues.

Rex Stanworth: There's been no human hair on those barbwire.

Kevin Bunnell: Not yet.

Rex Stanworth: Okay, all right. I've had real problems with barbwire after dark. So that was the first thing.

Kevin Bunnell: And we're not putting them right along trails and places where we would expect people to be wandering around.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Jack Hill.

Jake Hill: That lower Teepee that you had set up, I saw, was that a wire that went around it?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah that was a string of barbwire. And that's where we catch the hair. As the bear comes in . . .

Jack Hill: Oh, they go under the wire.

Kevin Bunnell: They go under or over but the barbs pull some hair out and that's how we collect it.

Jack Hill: Oh okay. Right.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any questions from the public? Please come forward.

Questions from the Public:

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. On your modeling for estimates, you, have you compared any on site study or analysis to those estimates to see what differences there might be? I know years ago when you did the cougar, when we had high cougar numbers and they started doing computer modeling and then they got on the ground and did some analysis and research, there were many more cougar in a lot of places than what the model showed. I was just wonder if there were any comparisons like that.

Kevin Bunnell: This isn't a model. This is an on the ground, you know, on the ground estimate. We're actually. . .

John Keeler: What are you finding as far as numbers go?

Kevin Bunnell: What I showed there, in that particular population in that area, between 15 and 20 bears over the five years, within that one hundred square miles.

John Keeler: Is this the only one?

Kevin Bunnell: We've got the one in Kamas, we've started one in Boulder, we'll have five of them spread across the state.

John Keeler: Is this the only one you've done and got the information on?

Kevin Bunnell: Right. We will have results back from the Boulder, usually we have them by now but we sent them off to a lab in Vancouver and they're behind this year.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the public? Comments?

Comments from the RAC:

None

Jake Albrecht: No cards. Comments from the RAC?

Comments from the Public:

None

Jake Albrecht: Okay, moving right along we'll go to Bear Proclamation and Rule. This is an action item. Justin Dolling. While you're getting ready let the minutes show that Steve Dalton has arrived. You're excused for being late.

Bear Proclamation and Rule R657-33 (action)

53:41 to 1:08:04 of 2:04:16

-Justin Dolling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Any questions from the RAC? Jim Edwards.

Questions from the RAC:

Jim Edwards: In that spring pursuit hunt, have we always had that or is that new this year, that you're adding?

Justin Dolling: The extension part?

Jim Edwards: No, just it showed there that we had a spring pursuit hunt during the, I thought that was just the kill season.

Kevin Bunnell: Spring's always been harvest and pursuit, fall is harvest only except for the last part of it.

Jim Edwards: Okay, thanks.

Jake Albrecht: Rex Stanworth.

Rex Stanworth: You don't have any conflict I guess with turkey hunters because the date you have there for the spring hunt is uh, right, well let's see that would be right when about the first turkey hunt starts and goes completely through the entire turkey hunt.

Justin Dolling: We've not had any complaints to date that I'm aware of on conflicts between bear hunters and turkey hunters.

Jake Albrecht: While you're on that screen there, on that summer training season, is that August 9th date too close to the fall hunt start to where the bear's are still, or is that enough time, a big enough spread there?

Justin Dolling: There'd be what a, thirteen day period between the end of summer training to the beginning of the fall hunt.

Jake Albrecht: I guess my question is, is they get a little more lax as soon as that summer training season kind of falls off?

Justin Dolling: Your question is is that enough time?

Jake Albrecht: Do you get what I'm saying? I mean during the summer training session, or season, or whatever you want to call it, those people with the houndsman are out there with their dogs and that, right?

Justin Dolling: Uh huh, right.

Jake Albrecht: My question is, is, are the bears kind of got used to them being out of the woods in that thirteen day period, to where it actually makes it better for the hunter to come in there?

Justin Dolling: Yeah, correct me if I'm wrong Kevin, but I think that that span of time between our summer training season and the fall hunt has always been about the same, two weeks?

Kevin Bunnell: Jake I don't know that we have any data to tell ya. But I think the other way to look at that is those fall hunters have six weeks after that plus November. So there's plenty of time if they, if there's still issues, which I don't think there are from the summer training season at that start date; there certainly isn't as you progress through the season.

Jake Albrecht: I have one more questions. Like on the Monroe unit, we have one bear, one bear permit. Do all of our hunting areas have to have bears? Is that written into the policy or is there areas where we could have an open season on bears to where we wouldn't have any bears? Is that part of how we handle them?

Justin Dolling: Yeah, I mean the plan sets the framework for how we make our permit recommendations. And so if those performance targets, if there's still some growth potential in those performance targets we'd be increasing permits. If we've exceeded those performance targets then we'd be decreasing permits. So for units that are still in compliance with those performance targets we have to use that foundation in the plan to make those decisions.

Jake Albrecht: Well my question is, is the bears that came from the, or that are on the Monroe came from the Fish Lake or somewhere else. But, my question is, is do we have to have bears on all our units if they show up or can we have an open season on them where you do away with them totally like you try to do with the elk on the Henry Mountains?

Justin Dolling: Well to my knowledge there again, it's all based on the plan. And I don't think the plan currently allows for singling out units and just eradicating bears with an open season.

Rex Stanworth: So you're saying there are no free bear zones. If a bear shows up, if he, if they populate he's just a number and if there's a number there and it gets too significant then that's when you open up the hunt and you try to regulate them that way. And I guess, I guess what Jake's coming to, and we've got a gentleman that's written and e-mail to us that are saying, you know, bears are okay but when they get to be a point where people are afraid to go out and camp anymore uh, can we have a bear free zone in some of these areas?

Justin Dolling: Here again, Kevin correct me if I'm wrong, but our current bear management plan doesn't allow for bear free zones. So if they naturally move into an area they would

become, they would be managed as bears that occur on adjoining units.

Kevin Bunnell: If you go back to the bear plan, one of the population goals was to maintain the distribution as it was in 2000 when the plan started. And I don't know that we've had bears expand into any areas in the last 10 years that they weren't when this plan started. In terms of the, Rex the conflicts, certainly the Monroe isn't a place where we have enough bears that there's that many issues. And the conflicts really wax and wane with the conditions on the ground. The bear population between 2007 and 2008 didn't change at all. But the number of conflicts we had changed dramatically. So we're going to have years when there are poor food conditions and we're going to have more bear problems. We don't have any way to predict with those are going to come and so we try to get the word out and educate people before hand and deal with them as we, as they come up. But there's no way for us to, I wish we could predict the weather and that would allow us to do that but there just isn't a way to do that.

Rex Stanworth: Do you have any other kind of, say for elk for example, if they're gets to be a huge concentration of elk uh, they'll call in hunters who've put in their names to come and take some of these elk that are causing the problems, depredation (unintelligible). Do you have any kind of a list for, let's say for example here on the Beaver, if all of a sudden two years ago there was huge problems, is there any list where we can quickly throw in a couple of three extra permits to come and take care of those bears?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes we do. When we, we try to handle nuisance problems with hunters as often as we can. And where we draw those people from is people that were unsuccessful during the spring hunt, there's almost always some of those. Or people that have a fall tag, we'll let them start early. So in any situation that we can, and we try to, not every situation allows for that but when we have conditions where we can we try to deal with nuisance bears using hunters when it makes sense to do so.

Jake Albrecht: Steve Dalton.

Steve Dalton: Yes, I've got a question; in 2007 was Boulder Mountain extended spring hunt?

Kevin Bunnell: No it wasn't. We had two different programs going last year, we had the extended seasons on some units and we had that deal where we were trying to pair up houndsman with hunters to try to deal with bears in certain areas. And the Boulder we used the second and not the second season. So no it wasn't extended but the Boulder is one that if we did add any units it might make sense to do it. Assuming that's where you're headed.

Steve Dalton: All right, thank you.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Questions from the public? Please come up John.

Questions from the Public:

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. Do you have ADC figures by region and by unit?

Justin Dolling: Yeah we do. Trying to think back on our slide. Um, I think it just showed . . . Yeah that just shows it statewide. But we do, if you have a particular, if you want to know about a particular unit.

John Keeler: The Beaver, unit 22.

Justin Dolling: Unit 22. Do you still have your computer (unintelligible)?

Kevin Bunnell: I can get that data for you but I don't have it. But Teresa may have it on her computer right there.

Jake Albrecht: Teresa, can you get that for us? What year were you after John?

John Keeler: I just wanted to see what the trend has been.

Jake Albrecht: What the average trend was? Steve, have you got a comment on that?

Steve Flinders: I don't think much of any, or any sheep on Beaver Mountain, so I don't think there's been very much Wildlife Services activity for bears. I know of just nuisance that you guys have dealt with on Beaver. Huh? A couple bears, last year?

Teresa Bonzo: These were listed as depredation and other purpose, so would that (unintelligible).

Kevin Bunnell: That includes nuisance. Yes. And on the Beaver it would almost all be nuisance, because like Steve said, we don't have, we don't have sheep on the Beaver.

Jake Albrecht: Did you get your questions answered John? Okay, any other questions from the public? We have no comment cards. Uh, oh we do? You're sitting there holding the ace. Okay, John Keeler, bear proclamation.

Comments from the Public:

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. We would support DWR recommendations. We'd had some reports of additional bear activity in some areas of the Beaver and just wondered about whether there needed to be an increase there. We have, we have had lots of bear activity throughout the state, a lot of them in the Northern where you are taking a few more. But we do support the DWR recommendations.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any other comment cards? Okay, seeing none we'll go to comments from the RAC. Steve Flinders.

Comments from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: I just want to say something about that summer pursuit season. I'd like to see that come back. I think it does a couple of things, rather than make bear harvest go down Jake, I think it actually increases success rates. You've got a bunch of local guys who haven't

had a chance to train their dogs and that summer pursuit season allows them to do that. And though there maybe some bears that get run pretty often, you know, they, some of them even figure out if they hurry and run up a tree they're okay. They're surprised when hunting season rolls around but it's taken care of some of the nuisance problems in and around real accessible areas. There's guys who just real quick before work run up the hill with a strike dog and see if they can run something off the road. And if a bear's been in some of the dispersed camping areas, been around cabins, I think it's saved us a lot of grief. So that's been a good change.

Jake Albrecht: Any other comments from the RAC? Okay, before we go on to a motion or whatnot I want to read into the minutes, we had one gentleman who took the time to write some information to us. It says, to members of the RAC and DWR, Big Game Board, I am writing in support of the Board issuing many more permits to hunt bears in number 1; All of Utah. And 2: In particular units in the South Central Utah area. And 3: Specifically Beaver. I am a lifelong resident of Utah. Grew up in Beaver. Have spent most of my adult life living in Beaver, Cache, Millard and Sevier Counties. As a lifelong outdoorsman I and members of my extended family have very serious concerns about the establishment and dramatic increase in population of bears in South Central Utah. This has occurred in areas other than historic bear areas like the LaSal, Bookcliffs, and High Uintah Mountains. My concern is based on results of experiences while camping, hunting and fishing. I am aware of reports by houndsman that there are at least 32 bears in only one portion of the Beaver Mountain area. Even though I and members of my family are outdoorsman we are not yet bear hunters. While growing up in Beaver in the 60's and 70's we never had to worry about bear encounters. Bear sightings were very rare and attributed to bears migrating through the area. Bear are now very well established on Beaver Mountain and encounters and problems are now becoming a regular occurrence. We used to never worry about ten camping or having our kids sleep out in tents. Most campgrounds and lakes on the mountains now have signs warning of presence of bears. This past summer we saw bears tracks and heard the stories of numerous bear encounters, consequently it is becoming not worth the risk to me and my family to camp. We now feel the need to carry firearms for self-defense. When we camp it is not, it is now in trailers and campers. This becomes very problematic for young families just starting out who cannot afford equipment. The presence of bears and the worry of bear attack and planning to prevent a potential fatality such as what occurred in American Fork Canyon have had a profound negative effect on our families' enjoyment of the outdoors. As parents we will no longer allow our children to tent camp. Mothers in my extended family are especially worried and reluctant to camp and expose young children to the risk posed by the bears. Therefore I would respectfully request and strongly encourage the DWR to dramatically increase the number of bear permits and to push bear populations back to areas that are considered to be historic bear areas in Utah. This will return the mountains of South Central Utah to a state of family friendly recreation. Signed by Jody Gale, of Annabella, Utah. Uh, so with that we, I guess we're to the point where we need to make some bear recommendations with the, some type of motion. Gary.

Gary Hallows: Jake . . .

Jack Hill: Mr. Chairman.

Gary Hallows: I make a motion that we pass the Bear Proclamation rule R657-33 as the

Division wants us to do with the exception of the Beaver and that we increase it to 12.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, we have a motion by Gary to approve the Bear Plan as presented with the exception that on the Beaver Mountain we increase that number to 12. And I guess that would be a split of 7 spring and 5 fall, something like that Gary? Do we have a second?

Dell LeFevre: I'll second that.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, we have a second by Dell LeFevre. Do we have any other discussion? Seeing no other discussion, all those in favor please raise your right hand. All in favor please raise your right hand. One, two, three. I count five with Jack. All those against? Five, three, motion carries.

Gary Hallows made the motion to accept the rule as presented with the exception of the Beaver Mountain to increase the permit number to 12 permits. Dell LeFevre seconded. 5 in favor. Rex Stanworth, James Edwards, and Clair Woodbury opposed.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, our next one is Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan. This is also an action item. Kevin Bunnell.

Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan (action) 1:26:08 to 1:32:17 of 2:04:16
-Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Questions from the RAC? Jack Hill.

Questions from the RAC:

Jack Hill: Yeah, Kevin in the materials I got under past and current management it says, uh, management for pronghorns in Utah have included transplant (unintelligible) so and so and so. . . Uh, aerial surveys, population classifications, hunter management and limited research. And when I read it, initially I looked at the habitat management bulls, it says, minimize impact of spring grazing in crucial fawning habitat. That statement implies that there is a negative impact in those areas. Is there any research to justify that?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah but the difference is there, most of it hasn't occurred in Utah. But there has been research, you know, for lactating does spring forbs are very important.

Jack Hill: Right, yeah.

Kevin Bunnell: And there has been research in other places that's indicated that that can be a limiting factor in some places.

Jack Hill: So you're applying that research to Utah.

Kevin Bunnell: Yes, and there's no reason to believe it doesn't apply.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? I've got, I've got probably a dumb one

Kevin, but see if you can answer it. On these areas where we have pronghorns, do we have the weed problems that we have like on areas where we don't have pronghorns? Do we have a big problem with weed and?

Kevin Bunnell: I don't know that you could, if there's any correlation between where we have weeds and where we have pronghorn, that I'm aware of. You know someone like Steve, as a land manager, do you know of any examples that may . . .

Jake Albrecht: My question is do they take care of the weed problem better than what we have on areas that are mule deer and elk?

Kevin Bunnell: I don't think so. I mean they're not like goats where they eat everything. They have actually a fairly specialized diet.

Jack Hill: Jake . . .

Jake Albrecht: See I told you it was a dumb one. Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: I was out on South East Utah out by Cisco, out that area, last year and I was amazed at the Cheat Grass out there. My hell all mighty, it's . . .

Kevin Bunnell: They had a good spring and it grew a lot.

Jack Hill: And there's a lot of weed out there. I was amazed at how much weed there is out there. And there's a lot of antelope out there.

Jake Albrecht: Clair Woodbury.

Clair Woodbury: I have an anecdotal answer to that question on what, on what they eat as far as weeds. Several years ago I was hunting the Indian Peaks unit for pronghorn. We run into one of the Division personnel and we asked him, well what do they like to eat? He says believe it or not their favorite food is green tumbleweed.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. Rex Stanworth, question.

Rex Stanworth: Just looking at your transplant areas, the there by Fillmore where they had that Milford fire, there was quite a few pronghorn that was lost there. Are, do you have any desires or any hopes to go back in and take some of these transplanted antelope and put into that area?

Kevin Bunnell: I'll just punt that one straight over to Teresa.

Teresa Bonzo: I guess we don't have data that says that we lost a lot during that fire, a lot of pronghorn in the Milford Flat fire. And we currently don't have plans to reintroduce them. If we do see that our population has diminished we may consider that in future years but not at this point.

Rex Stanworth: I would sure tell you to have a conversation with Sean because I know the newspaper had a number of photographs of burned up pronghorn. And there used to be when you could drive down the freeway you could always see pronghorn along the freeway just south of Kanosh, and also, just there around the lime plants south of Deseret. There's no, you just don't see any antelope through there at all any more. So you may want to check with Sean, but that may be an area that you may want to think about throwing a few of those antelope that you're harvesting, unless you got a place for them to go.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, do we have any questions from the public? John.

Questions from the Public:

John Keeler: John Keeler, Farm Bureau. What part of the Manti did you say is this proposal?

Kevin Bunnell: I believe if I remember correctly, it was on the south east side of the Manti where there used to be some pronghorn. It would be a place to do a reintroduction. We don't know of any significant population there right now. I may be mistaken on where I'm telling your but I believe that was the right spot. Does that not click into my . . .

Unknown: Close to where?

Kevin Bunnell: Down around Ferron, that area.

Jack Hill: That's good uh, that's good pronghorn. I can remember when there was pronghorn out there.

Jake Albrecht: Go ahead John.

John Keeler: (Inaudible).

Jake Albrecht: Okay, do we have any other questions from the public? We'll go comments from the public. Come back up John.

Comments from the Public:

John Keeler: John Keeler, Farm Bureau. Uh, in that Ferron area there's a lot of fencing for those allotments there. And I noticed one of the concerns was fencing for the movement of pronghorns. So I'm not so sure that's a good idea.

Jake Albrecht: Yeah and we're not probably familiar with it on our end either. Do we have any other comment cards then? Seeing none we'll go to comments from the RAC.

Comments from the RAC:

None

Jake Albrecht: No comments. Do we, far enough along for a motion? Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Yeah, I'll make a motion to accept the Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan as presented by Kevin.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, we have a motion by Rex to accept as presented. And a second by Steve Flinders. Any other discussion? All in favor please raise your right hand. I think everybody voted yes, didn't they? Okay.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept as presented, Steve Flinders seconded. Unanimous

Jake Albrecht: Okay, R657-20, excuse me, this is Falconry Rule. Kevin. How did you get all these?

Falconry Rule R657-20 (action)

1:40:06 to 1:42:20 of 2:04:16

-Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

None

Jake Albrecht: Questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

None

Jake Albrecht: We have no comment cards.

Comments from the Public:

None

Jake Albrecht: Comments from the RAC.

Comments from the RAC:

None

Jake Albrecht: Motion, Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Yeah, I'll make a motion that we approve the Falconry Rule R657-20 as presented by Kevin, and give the extension.

Jake Albrecht: Motion by Rex to accept R657-20 as presented, seconded by Jim Edwards. All in favor right hand please. None against. Motion carries.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept as presented, James Edwards seconded. Unanimous

Jake Albrecht: Next one is Drawing Application Procedures and Rule; this is R657-62, Kenny Johnson. Welcome.

Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62 (action) 1:43:21 to 1:45:28 of 2:04:16
-Kenny Johnson, Wildlife Licensing Specialist

Jake Albrecht: Question Clair?

Questions from the RAC:

Clair Woodbury: Are those rules all the same for each one of those?

Kenny Johnson: Yes pretty much. The, incrementally over the last three or four years as we've moved everything from kind of a quasi paper and electronic process to more of an electronic process. That process is standardized across the board.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

None

Jake Albrecht: We have no comment cards, so we'll go to comments from the RAC.

Comments from the Public:

None

Comments from the RAC:

None

Jake Albrecht: Steve.

Steve Flinders: I move we approve as presented.

Jake Albrecht: A motion by Steve to accept as presented. Seconded by Jim. Any other discussion? All in favor, right hand. Gary. Any against? Motion carries.

Steve Flinders made the motion to accept as presented, James Edwards seconded.

Unanimous

Jake Albrecht: Our next item is Wildlife Convention Permits Rule, Kenny Johnson.

Wildlife Convention Permits Rule R657-55 (action) 1:46:51 to 1:50:40 of 2:04:16
-Kenny Johnson, Wildlife Licensing Specialist

Jake Albrecht: Okay, question.

Questions from the RAC:

Jake Albrecht: Ok question, on the screen where you brought up the three, was that originally how that was filed with the Division was the wild sheep and the sportsman and the mule deer, or was it just one or two of them?

Kenny Johnson: My understanding is it was these three but then it was also Wild Turkey Federation and I believe Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as well. And then the Board went through the list of criteria to select the most appropriate suitor at the time.

Jake Albrecht: So if any one of those people drops out does that change the application?

Kenny Johnson: The way it worked was in 2005 there was a specific application period where these conservation groups could apply for the 200 permits. So the application periods kind of come and gone and what we're proposing is that these that are already contributing to the convention, if one of those decides to leave then anyone that applied originally could be given the opportunity to carry it forward.

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any other questions from the RAC? Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Kenny off the wall, is the Division, are they present when these permits are drawn by the group? I mean there's somebody from the Division that is present to make sure that?

Kenny Johnson: Yeah we actually work with them to certify the results of their random draw. And it's electronic. They use a third party vendor in Salt Lake City to pull that off.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions? Jack Hill.

Jack Hill: My questions, makes reference to the series of wildlife conservation convention permits, why isn't there a number in there? As I understand it there are 200 permits?

Kenny Johnson: Correct.

Jake Albrecht That's set in another convention rule.

Jack Hill: Well this spells out R657-55 and R657-55-1, it spells it all out. It doesn't give any numbers. R657-54-4 . . .

Jake Albrecht: Doug will answer that for you.

Jack Hill: . . . Says the wildlife convention permits series is available to eligible, no where it says anything about numbers.

Douglas Messerly: Jack, Jack, those numbers are actually a factor of the number of permits that we issue on all the units and consequently they can't be set until after the unit numbers are set. So the specific number is calculated later. But it, it's presented to the RAC as a specific number of permits to be issued at a later time. This is about the process is what this is about.

Jack Hill: Okay

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Do we have any questions from the public? Please come up to the mic. Do you have questions or comments? Okay

Questions from the Public:

None.

Jake Albrecht: Okay we have no questions from the public so we'll go to comments from the public. Byron Baitman.

Comments from the Public:

Byron Baitman: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm representing the Western Hunting Conservation Expo, which is the Wild Sheep Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, and Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. This is our third year to do the Expo, with the convention tags and the permits and stuff like that. It's the third year of our five-year contract that we have with the DWR. The Wild Sheep Foundation has chosen to go to Reno in 2010 but Mule Deer and Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife will be there. We've already contracted with the Salt Palace to hold the convention through 2011, 2010 and 2011, which would be the last two years. But if you had the opportunity to go up there and go to that Expo, over four days, you've had an opportunity to apply for these tags you can see it's really an awesome thing for the state of Utah. It adds more opportunity for people to apply for tags in the state. And it gives you an opportunity on once in a lifetime tags that you don't have any other way other than going through these convention tags and stuff like that. And we just ask your help, you know, to help us to continue this, you know, thing for the state of Utah because it's been a great, great event that people look forward to every year. This coming year it's February 5, 6, 7 and 8 at the Salt Palace. Jeff Foxworthy will be in concert Friday night at the Energy Solutions Arena. And there's over 600 exhibitors that come there. Some of the greatest taxidermy work in the world, artwork. And there's a lot of different seminars and stuff like that from different professionals throughout the hunting industry. Utah has a lot of major corporations in the hunting industry that kind of showcase their wares, good and stuff like that, what's new in the industry at this expo. So it gives hunters and just the people of the state of Utah a great time to get together over a four-day period and just see what's kind of going on in the hunting and outdoor industry. So we just

ask for your support to continue this. And if there's any questions I'd be more than happy to answer them.

Jake Albrecht: Byron then are you, you guys are favorable with this rule then?

Byron Baitman: Yes. That way we can, that's the only way we can continue on is with this rule, if they just, you know the way it's amended like that, just we continue on business successors. The two grips, Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife.

Jack Hill: How many registrations did you have last year?

Byron Baitman: We had over 25,000 people come through the expo in 4 days. We had people from all 50 states in the United States, 19 foreign countries. Uh, you know, every Canadian Province, we had people in representation there. So it's not only just Utah, well you see the breathe of this thing because it covers a lot of different areas and types of hunting and stuff like that throughout the world.

Jack Hill: You had 25,000 registrations?

Byron Baitman: Not Registrations. That's actual walk-in trade, people who have walked in and bought a application to come into the expo exhibit hall itself.

Jack Hill: In order to apply for one of the permits you'd have to be registered, is that correct?

Byron Baitman: No. You don't have to register. The registration is set up outside the exhibit hall; it costs nothing. You just walk up and pay your five-dollar application fee. And you have to have a hunting license. So also the Division has a kiosk and a booth right there where they can actually sell hunting licenses to residents and nonresidents and it helps create, generate more revenue for the state of Utah by selling more hunting licenses and stuff like that. But they're in conjunction with us and nobody has to go, you know, inside the exhibit hall or register in order to draw. Just pay your five dollars, which is, you know the state charges ten dollars now in a regular draw, we're still five dollars and we want to stay at five dollars because we felt the cost of fuel that uh, you know, we just tried to be as user friendly as we can be to help people out and give them a chance to, you know, apply for more tags and more opportunity.

Jack Hill: How many registrations did you have last year? Well you've got to register to go to the conference don't ya?

Byron Baitman: No you don't have to register.

Jack Hill: Okay, you had 25,000 people?

Byron Baitman: 25,000 people that came through the doors in 4 days.

Jack Hill: But you don't have any kind of registration so you don't know where they're from? I mean you know that they're . . .

Byron Baitman: We know where the people are from that applied for the tags and stuff like that because that's all tracked, just like on a regular license.

Jack Hill: Okay. How many people applied for tags?

Byron Baitman: For tags at a little over 10,000 people applied.

Jack Hill: How many of those 10,000 people were from the state of Utah?

Byron Baitman: About 85 percent were residents, the balance were all nonresidents.

Jack Hill: Okay, that's what I wanted to know. Thank you very much.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, do we have any other comments from the public? None. Thanks Byron.

Byron Baitman: Okay, thank you.

Jake Albrecht: We'll go to comments from the RAC then. Jim Edwards.

Comments from the RAC:

Jim Edwards: I have one comment on the expo. I've been to it the last two years and it's some kind of an exhibition out there. I spent two days in there and I could have spent the other two but my wife said we had to leave. But anyway it was really something. I really enjoyed it. And I also spend \$265 bucks on the five-dollar tags and I didn't draw.

Jake Albrecht: Talk to Kevin about that. Any other comments? Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I guess I'll make the motion that we approve Rule R657-55 dealing with the Wildlife Convention as presented.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, we have a motion by Rex and a second by Gary. Any other discussion? All in favor, right hand. All against. Are you abstaining Jack? All in favor was unanimous then, right? Okay.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to approve as accepted, Gary Hallows seconded. Unanimous

2009 RAC Schedule (action)

-Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Jake Albrecht: Okay, our next item is also an action item. If you'll look at the handout it's called 2009 Wildlife Board RAC Schedule. This is a schedule with the tentative agendas as well as where the locations would be. I put those in, the last couple of weeks thinking, you know, whatever. But to go through it, February would be in Beaver, which is a non-consumptive. March would be in Richfield, which is Bucks and Bulls Permit Numbers. April's would be in

Beaver, which is a conference call all RACs meet the same night. May is Antlerless Addendum and Permit, no excuse me, 2010 Fishing Information, Upland Game and Guide, that's in Fillmore. No meeting scheduled in June. July is in Panguitch, which is Cougar and Furbearer. That's where we held it last year. August is no RAC meetings. September is in Beaver, which is the Fishing Proclamation Rule, Big Game Informational. October no RAC meeting. November is Bucks and Bulls Proclamation and Rule, is in Richfield. And December is what we did tonight, would be in Cedar City if you guys approve it that way. Dell, did you have a comment there?

Dell LeFevre: I make a motion we approve the RAC agenda as read.

Jake Albrecht: A motion by Dell. Second by Jim Edwards. Any other discussion? All in favor, right hand. All against. Motion carries.

Dell LeFevre made the motion to accept as presented, James Edwards seconded. Unanimous

Other Business (contingent)

-Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Jake Albrecht: Other business.

Rex Stanworth: Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming we're not doing the (unintelligible) Draw Unit that was part of the packet. Okay, all right. I've got one question I wanted to ask ya; In our meetings we have people that write us these e-mails, and each board member is given those prior to the meeting. I mean they're sitting here on the table. Is it necessary that we have to read these into the minutes or can we just reference that they've been given to the secretary and then . . . I guess my concern is that there's times when we have seven, or eight, or nine of these and we try to read them in and we're spending 30 minutes worth of time and the whole purpose of the RAC is certainly to get, gather information but also here. So I'm just wondering if we're not . . .

Jake Albrecht: My comment would be if we only had like one or so to read them in. If we have a bunch then we would refer them.

Rex Stanworth: Okay.

Jake Albrecht: Kind of make a call on what's there. But we do give a copy to the DWR that goes into their, so they have them also. Okay, motion . . .

Rex Stanworth: Motion to adjourn.

Jake Albrecht: Motion to adjourn by Rex. Second by Dell LeFevre. All in favor, go home.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to adjourn, Dell LeFevre seconded. Unanimous

Jake Albrecht: Thanks guys. Our next business, or meeting will be February 10th, in Beaver.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm

MOTIONS MATRIX
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL
JOHN WESLEY POWELL MUSEUM IN GREEN RIVER

December 10, 2008

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: to approve the agenda as printed.

PASSED: unanimously

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the minutes as written.

PASSED: unanimously

BEAR PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-33

MOTION: to approve the Bear Proclamation and Rule as presented.

PASSED: unanimously

STATEWIDE PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: to approve the Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan as presented.

PASSED: unanimously

FALCONRY RULE R657-20

MOTION: to approve the Falconry Rule as presented.

PASSED: unanimously

DRAWING APPLICATION PROCEDURES RULE R657-62

MOTION: to approve the Drawing Application Procedures Rule as presented.

PASSED: unanimously

WILDLIFE CONVENTION PERMITS RULE R657-55

MOTION: to approve the Wildlife Convention Rule as presented.

PASSED: by a majority vote. Two opposing votes were cast.

PREDATOR CONTROL SURCHARGE

MOTION: to ask the Wildlife Board to reconsider adding a 50 cent surcharge to all hunting licenses for additional predator control.

PASSED: by a majority vote. One opposing vote was cast.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River

December 10, 2008

Commence at 6:40 p.m.; Adjourn at 9 p.m.

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albrecht, Kevin	U.S. Forest Service
Bates, Bill	Regional Supervisor
Byrnes, Verd	At Large
Hatch, Jordan	Agriculture
Hoskisson, Wayne	Environmental
Maldonado, Walt	Sportsmen
Riddle, Pam	BLM
Sanslow, Terry	At Large
Sitterud, Drew	Elected Official

EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

Gilson, James	Sportsmen
Kamala, Laura	Environmental

UNEXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:

Adams, Bruce	At Large
Bayles, Lyle	At Large
Lewis, Kurt	Agriculture

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

DWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Bates, Bill
Bunnell, Kevin
Crompton, Brad
Dolling, Justin
Johnson, Kenny
Stettler, Brent
Stilson, Randall

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE 3

CONDUCTING THE MEETING

-Terry Sanslow, Vice Chairman

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

MOTION by Drew Sitterud to approve the agenda as printed.

SECOND by Walt Maldonado

PASSED unanimously

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

-James Gilson, Chairman

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

MOTION by Wayne Hoskisson to approve the minutes as written.

SECOND by Kevin Albrecht

PASSED unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

By Terry Sanslow, Vice Chairman

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

Terry Sanslow reviewed the discussion and actions taken at the last Wildlife Board meeting. Topics included the statewide mule deer management plan, changes to the dedicated hunter program, the statewide archery hunt, a 50 cent surcharge for predator

control, group big game application changes, and recommended provisions for wheel chair hunters.

MOTION by N/A
SECOND by
PASSED:

REGIONAL UPDATE

By Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor

Questions from the RAC:

Terry Sanslow asked about the proposed transplant destinations for pronghorns trapped at the Parker Mountains.

Bill Bates indicated that the initial plan to send 200 head to Mexico had to be postponed, due to insurance coverage issues with state vehicles.

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

MOTION by N/A
SECOND by
PASSED:

DEER FEEDING POLICY

By Justin Doling, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC:

Wayne Hoskisson asked about the factors influencing a decision whether or not to feed deer, how long to feed and the criteria for discontinuance of feeding.

Justin responded that snow depth, snow persistence, temperature, and length of time spent by animals on the feeding ground all factored into the decision.

Walt Maldonado asked if feeding had been done other than in northern Utah.

Justin answered in the negative.

Kevin Albrecht asked if feeding sites had already been located and established.

Justin answered that the local biologist makes the decision on location of feeding sites.

Kevin Albrecht and Justin Doling discussed the elements of a feeding site, including a place to store pellets, the need for an agreement with landowners, road access, etc.

Questions from the Audience:

A member of the audience asked if water were provided at feeding sites.

Justin said that snow satisfied a deer's water requirements, if open water was not available.

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

MOTION by N/A
SECOND by
PASSED:

BEAR STUDY

By Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

Wayne Hoskisson complimented Kevin Bunnell for the innovative method implemented for counting bears.

MOTION by N/A
SECOND by
PASSED:

BLACK BEAR PROCLAMATION AND RULE R657-33

-By Kevin Bunnell, DWR Mammals Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC:

Verd Byrnes asked which units had the highest incidence of bear problems.

Kevin Bunnell identified five units with the highest incidence. The only unit named in southeastern Utah was the Manti.

Bill Bates added that the units with the most sheep grazing were the ones with the most problems.

Verd Byrnes asked if Kevin knew the percentage of out-of-state bear hunters.

Kevin said that 20-30 % of the hunters on the LaSal and San Juan units were non-residents. The usual percentage of non-residents on bear units in Utah was about 5%.

Verd asked if steps had been taken to enact a guide law in Utah.

Kevin answered that a legislator had not stepped forward to sponsor a bill, and that the Division had been discouraged from further pursuit.

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

Bob Pettersen of the Utah Houndsmen Association spoke against moving three bear pursuit permits from fall to spring on the LaSal and San Juan units. He was more worried about his hounds being shot by turkey hunters than by elk hunters.

Kevin Albrecht asked Brad Crompton if the recommendation had been made to reduce conflicts with big game hunters.

Brad answered in the affirmative. Besides, fewer females were killed on spring hunts compared with fall hunts.

Comments/Discussion from the RAC:

Wayne Hoskisson said that this year he had observed a lot of people suspending food from trees in an attempt to deter bear incidents.

Justin reviewed the public information campaign that had been underway to educate people about safe food storage practices in bear country.

MOTION by Kevin Albrecht to approve the Bear Proclamation and Rule as presented.

SECOND by Drew Sitterud

PASSED unanimously

STATEWIDE PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT PLAN

-By Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

Questions/Comments from the RAC:

Walt Maldonado asked why the Parker Mountains unit was so successful.

Kevin Bunnell answered that its high elevation and increased rainfall was the answer.

Wayne Hoskisson added that the Parker Mountains had more forb growth than many other rangelands in Utah.

Jordan Hatch asked if agricultural interests had been taken into consideration, when determining suitable transplant sites.

Kevin Bunnell responded that agriculture was one of the determining factors for a “suitability” designation.

Walt Maldonado asked if there was water available for pronghorn on the San Rafael reef.

Brad Crompton answered that the Division would be installing two guzzlers next year to improve the water resource.

Jordan questioned the “suitability” designation for the southeast Manti unit.

Brad Crompton acknowledged that there was very little habitat on the southeast Manti. The habitat consisted of a sliver of range between Highway 10 and the escarpment at the base of the mountain. Brad identified the Range Creek transplant site as extending from Highway 6 on the west to the edge of the Tavaputs Plateau on the east.

Verd Byrnes asked what habitat projects were planned for antelope.

Brad answered that water development was the primary habitat enhancement work performed in Utah.

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

MOTION by Kevin Albrecht to approve the Statewide Pronghorn Management Plan as presented.

SECOND by Pam Riddle

PASSED unanimously

FALCONRY RULE R657-20

-By Kevin Bunnell, Mammals Program Coordinator

Questions/Comments from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

MOTION by Kevin Albrecht to approve the Falconry Rule as presented.

SECOND by Drew Sitterud

PASSED unanimously

DRAWING APPLICATION PROCEDURES RULE R657-62

-By Kenny Johnson, Wildlife Licensing Specialist

Questions/Comments from the RAC:

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

MOTION by Kevin Albrecht to accept the Drawing Application Procedures Rule as presented.

SECOND by Drew Sitterud

PASSED unanimously

WILDLIFE CONVENTION PERMITS RULE R657-55

-By Kenny Johnson, Wildlife Licensing Specialist

Questions/Comments from the RAC:

Wayne Hoskisson asked if all convention permits are sold.

Don Peay answered in the affirmative.

Bill Bates asked if any organization had pulled out of the upcoming convention.

Kenny answered that the national FNAWS organization had withdrawn from participating.

Jordan asked how a sportsmen organization received the appointment to be a convention sponsor.

Kenny replied that an appointment was made through an application process.

Wayne Hoskisson asked about the selection process and partnerships formed by sportsmen organizations at the last convention.

Don Peay summarized the application and rejection process.

Jordan Hatch asked if a contract had been drawn up, and if there were penalties for breach of contract.

Don answered that a five year contract had been drawn up and that loss of auction permits constituted the penalty for breach of contract.

Jordan asked about the financial incentives for a convention sponsor, and questioned the fairness of selection process.

Verd Byrnes and Kevin Albrecht came to the SFW's defense for their track record of habitat projects and wildlife conservation.

Jordan expressed skepticism about possible favoritism shown to the SFW.

Questions from the Audience:

Comments from the Audience:

MOTION by Kevin Albrecht to approve the Wildlife Convention Permits Rule as presented.
SECOND by Drew Sitterud
PASSED by a majority vote. Opposing votes were cast by Jordan Hatch and Wayne Hoskisson.

OTHER BUSINESS

-by Terry Sanslow

Questions/Comments from the RAC:

Jordan Hatch protested the Wildlife Board's failure to act upon a motion passed by this RAC last month, which would have added a 50 cent surcharge to each hunting license. The surcharge would have helped subsidize predator control.

MOTION by Jordan Hatch to ask the Board to reconsider implementation of a 50 cent surcharge on hunting licenses for predator control.

SECOND by Drew Sitterud

PASSED by a majority vote. Only Wayne Hoskisson opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Terry Sanslow adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.